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THE AMERICAN ACADEMY.

It was a year ago that the American Academy of Arts and Letters made its formal appearance before the public. The place was Washington, and, besides the regular sessions of the organization, there was a reception by the President of the United States, which in a way symbolized the newly-assumed public character of the organization. Application was made to Congress for a national charter, and the bill for that purpose is still pending. It passed the Senate, but did not obtain from the House the "unanimous consent" necessary for prompt action. Some members objected because their own pet measures could not gain this concession, and one or two others because they could not discover in the membership of the Academy any representatives of, say, Arkansas or Oklahoma. We trust that this was only a temporary postponement of action upon a subject that cannot possibly be affected by any political interest, and is of some concern to the higher life of the nation.

Last week, the second public meeting of the Academy was held, this time in New York, and in connection with the larger National Institute of Arts and Letters, from whose membership academicians must be elected. The sessions were dignified and impressive, fully justifying, if that were necessary, the existence of the two organizations which jointly represent the best that America can offer in literature and scholarship, in music and the arts of design. Even the newspapers were somewhat less irreverent than they usually are in dealing with anything that even remotely suggests Matthew Arnold's saving "remnant," did not make as many jocose remarks about "immortals" as might have been expected, and in general treated the meeting quite seriously. Those who were present felt that they were witnessing the beginnings of a movement having much potentiality for good, and likely in the future to play a considerable part in our national life.

A year ago, we published a list of the members of the Academy as it then was constituted. There have been a few deaths and a few elections since that time, but the list remains substantially the same. One of the sessions of last week was devoted to the reading of commemorative papers upon the members who have died during the last five years or so, and the roll is one of which any body and any country might well be proud. In literature, the names included were those of Stedman, Clemens, Hay, Norton, Aldrich, Jefferson, Gilder, Schurz, Harris, and Hale. In music and the fine arts there were the names of MacDowell, Saint-Gaudens, McKim, Ward, and Homer. Since the plans for this session were made, three other academicians, Moody, La Farge, and Mrs. Howe (the only woman member) have gone over to the majority. It must be a lasting inspiration to the organization to know that these men once adorned its ranks, as well as a spur to those living to make themselves as worthy as possible to occupy the vacated places.

The sessions of last week were held in the New Theatre (generously given for the occasion) and were gracefully presided over by Mr. William Dean Howells, as President of the Academy, and Mr. Henry Van Dyke, as President of the Institute. The papers which were read were upon a high level of thought, and struck with proper discretion, but without undue forcing, the American note. The last-mentioned characteristic was noticeable in the afternoon session of December 8, when music, poetry, fiction, and sculpture were respectively represented by Messrs. Walter Damrosch, Percy Mackaye, Hamlin Garland, and Lorado Taft. The morning session had been occupied with more abstract and philosophical themes, -" Criticism," by Mr. William Crary Brownell, "The Revolt of the Unfit," by President Nicholas Murray Butler, and "The Living Past in the Living Present," by Mr. Henry Mills Alden. All these papers will appear in due time in the Proceedings of the organizations concerned.

The first paper of all must have a word to itself. It was entitled "A Retrospection," and was read by the venerable John Bigelow. The paper itself was a page of racy reminiscence from the author's life in Paris in the early sixties, but the interest it aroused on its own account was greatly exceeded by interest in the personality of the reader. That wonderful old man, now in his ninety-fourth year, brought the whole audience to its feet when he stepped forward upon the platform, and the prolonged applause which his appearance evoked was heart-felt and sincere. His voice was low but distinct, and he spoke with a degree of animation suggestive of anything but senility. In him, the Academy boasts of a member who comes close to being an "immortal" in the literal sense, and he gave a new turn to an ancient jest when he began his remarks by saying; "You'd scarce expect one of my age to stand in public on a stage."

Second in interest only to Mr. Bigelow's contribution to the programme was the Shakespearian reading given by Dr. Horace Howard Furness, that veteran scholar who bears his years so lightly, and wears his honors with such unaffected simplicity. "King Henry the Fifth" was the play chosen for the reading, and those who knew the play best felt that they were viewing it in a new light through the medium of the reader's skilfully modulated voice and occasional suggestive commentary. Not the least noteworthy incident of the meeting was the bestowal of the gold medal of the Institute upon Mr. James Ford Rhodes, declared by a plurality of votes to be the most worthy among living American historians to be awarded this distinction. The closing act of the public exercises was provided by a formal reception given by the Mayor of New York in the Lenox Library. When the end of the entire programme was reached, the members regretfully dispersed, most of them feeling, we think, that it was good to have been participants in the affair. It was all very skilfully managed, and its temper was happily voiced by the President of the Academy when he said:

"The academies of France, Spain, St. Petersburg, and other European countries have an authoritative position which we don't pretend to. We don't hope to shape American art and letters, but our aggregation will make for a higher standard in American art and letters. Each of us feels the molecular stir of universal activity. The purpose of our organization is to relate itself to the esthetic life of the nation. We have a right to remain in this organization because we hope that we can help others to do something more important than we have done ourselves."

ANATOLE FRANCE.

Did some prevision of worthiness stir within Jacques Anatole Thibault when he chose for pseudonym the name of his country and became Anatole France? If so, time has justified his temerity; for now, at sixty-six years of age, the author of some twenty-seven works, and member of the Academy, he is certainly the most interesting and perhaps the most remarkable figure in the literary life of contemporary France. Furthermore, his fame and his books have begun the crossing of boundary lines, translations are growing abundant, and one sees "Anatole France" in the literary journals almost as often as the names of the popular novelists.

When a foreigner comes to America, we have an unfortunate habit of saddling him with a comparison: he is the Hearst of Italy, or the Roosevelt of Illyria, or the boss of Madrid. A foreign author must be labelled forthwith; hence many an unoffending Belgian or Russian has Shakespeare or Mark Twain stamped upon him for the American market. No one denies the usefulness of the practice, but in certain cases it may be unfortunate. We have greeted Anatole France as the Sterne of his native country. The comparison is particularly unhappy. Sterne was a sentimentalist: France is as unsentimental as Bernard Shaw. Sterne played upon the foibles of human nature: France attacks human nature itself. There seems to be no possible resemblance between the two writers unless in their like mastery of wit and of style, a resemblance which scarcely justifies an exchange of names. If France must be compared to an Englishman, let it be to Swift. Swift turned his generation into pigmies, and so made fun of them; he made his ideas of better men into giants, and so cudgelled his contemporaries with Brobdingnagian strokes; he embodied his ideals in the form of a horse, and so cast scorn upon the unideal. Just so Anatole France transforms his Frenchmen into penguins that he may expose their frailties, saints into fools that he may reflect upon saintly wisdom, and beloved stories into analyses of human folly. By all means call him the Swift of France, if you must compare; but the truth is more interesting than any approximation.

After the comparison-mongers, two other reception committees have waited upon the reputation of Anatole France. They are the slightly contemptuous and the entirely objective schools of criticism. The first make no bones of the matter. France lashes the church, lashes the state, lashes morality, lashes human nature. Believing in nothing himself, he is as destructive as a steam-shovel. Therefore he is a satirist without a standard, an intellectual dilettante,—and thus very dangerous. The objective school is more gentle. For them, France is a wit, a stylist, and a consummate master of irony. His fundamental beliefs or disbeliefs can go hang. What do they care about his dilettanteism so long as he amuses them! Both schools, I believe, are wrong.

The accusers on the grounds of dilettanteism were nourished, one may suppose, upon "Le Crime de Sylvestre Bonnard," and have cherished opinions, thus conceived, to apply them where they do not belong. "Sylvestre Bonnard" is an old book. It was crowned by the French Academy in 1881, and has been popular ever since, as witness my own copy, bought in August, 1909, in France and of the one hundredth and ninth edition. When you read it, a strange sense of familiarity comes over you, mingled with a stranger sense of novelty. The familiarity is easily explained. The book is an idyll, a prose idyll of the kind the French have always done so well. Sylvestre Bonnard, the scholar, sits in his City of Books far above the Paris quays and looks down upon the world below. After awhile he ventures out into that world. First, it is when a young wife has the temerity to become a mother in the neighborhood of his scholarly retreat; again, it is in a wild pursuit of a manuscript, to Sicily and back; most decisively, however, when he joins battle with custom and law in an attempt to save from misery the daughter of a woman he had once loved. With, as hero, the most charming and gracious scholar who ever lost the world for a book, this is sufficiently idyllic.

But Sylvestre is somewhat different from the "professor" who usually represents the faculty in literature. True, he is unworldly, as that figure always is. True, he distrusts his imagination, and is aware of the cramping of his heart. But Bonnard remains a hard-headed intellectual from cover to cover. He exhausts the thirteenth century, yet in the droop of his age one finds him, no truant to knowledge, at work upon the society of the flowers and the bees. In brief, this book is an idyll of the intellectual life, the most intractable of materials for idyllics; and hence its curious novelty. It is made up of the reflections of the world upon the mirror of the intellect. If it has a moral, it teaches how to get pleasure from one's mental life, and thus is indubitably a study in intellectual dilettanteism.

But I believe no one called France a dilettante when he published "Bonnard." With so gentle a book, there was no need for name-calling. And yet satire was latent there. Hamilear, who purred upon his cushions in the City of Books, could sometimes show his claws; and so could the author of "Sylvestre Bonnard." Old Bonnard got his wishedfor manuscript through the woman with the baby; for she was a collector of rarities too - of rare match-boxes with photographs of notabilities on the covers, - and so of course could sympathize with his scholarly pursuit. There was a claw shown! Indeed, though Bonnard passes with a Nunc Dimittis upon his lips, he does not utterly die. He is reincarnated in the spirit of the later Anatole, more vigorous, more knowing in the world and less fond of it, quite willing now to test Paris and the world with his intellect, sure that if they be found wanting his intellect will still remain to console him. It is this later Bonnard, disillusioned and done with his

idyll, who wrote "L'Ile des Pingouins," and has been called an intellectual dilettante for doing so. "The Isle of Penguins" was probably not the greatest book of its year (1908), but it was perhaps the most interesting, and certainly the most remarkable. It begins with a faithful if somewhat satiric representation of an early saint of the kind which those who read the saints' legends know. The blissful Maël had been accustomed, like all the early missionaries, to navigate in a trough of stone; but, tempted by the devil, he foregoes the miracle and takes to a boat. The evil boat, taking the wind in its teeth, flies far down into the Antarctic, and there lands the blissful Maël, weary, half blind with spray, upon a little island, where sit a colony of penguins. The holy man mistakes them for savages, blesses them, and, believing that the chorus of quackings with which they respond to his voice indicates a desire to be saved, instructs them in the faith, and baptizes each one with a drop of pure water upon his head. Then the pontiffs, the doctors, and the saints in Heaven are thrown into a horrid confusion. What has been the effect of this unfortunate baptism? Is it the form or the spirit of the sacrament which counts? If it is the form, here is a pretty pickle! The debate goes to the formalists; and God, to save an embarrassment - for what if the Penguins, having no souls, should sin and be damned? - transforms the birds to men. Then the isle of the Penguins is towed by miracle to the Breton shores; Penguiny becomes France, the rise of the Penguins the rise of our modern civilization. But the Penguins, though men in shape, at first are but animals in intelligence. It is an opportunity for their facile historian who, with searching irony and infinite wit, leads them through the courses of sophistication. One views in their bare nakedness the origin of sacred institutions. "Do you not see," cries the ancient Maël, "this furious Penguin who bites the nose of his fallen adversary, and that other who pounds the head of a woman with a great stone?" "I see them." answers Bulloch his fallow " "I see them," answers Bulloch, his fellow monk. "They create law; they found property; they establish the principles of civilization, the basis of society, and the foundation of the State." The age of myth appears, with its dragon, who is exposed as a most vicious fraud, but remembered by the Penguins as a most awful reality. And so one passes through the notable twists and turns of French history wherein man is shown to be always ridiculous, incapable, vain, and lewd; where woman is sensual, and the cause of wickedness and wars; where great events happen from little causes, and the Penguins as men are often more ignoble than as birds. Finally, the story looks to the future. "Houses could never be built high enough; they raised them ceaselessly, constructing thirty or forty stories upon which were placed offices, stores, and banks; while, beneath, the earth was dug more and more deeply for cellars and tunnels. Fifteen millions of men worked in the giant city." But life had become too monotonous, too hard for happiness. A young man, who felt that this society had passed its usefulness, harnessed radium, and in a series of mighty explosions wrecked the giant city. Anarchy followed, and gave rise to decadence. The city died, and was buried beneath pastures. A pastoral people wandered over the site. They founded villages. The villages became great towns. These united into a vast capital. It grew rich and vast, until " houses could never be built high enough; they raised them ceaselessly, constructing thirty or forty stories upon which they placed offices, stores, and banks; while, beneath, the earth was dug more and more deeply for cellars and tunnels. Fifteen millions of men worked in the giant city." And thus, with the recurrence of a melancholy cycle, the book ends.

The school of the contemptuous and the school of the objectivists view this story in different fashions; and to them is added a third school with still a third point of view. This last group is the most positive of all. The book is bad, they say, morally bad, and so wash their hands of further criticism. One must admit, in fact, that the English lady who found "Antony and Cleopatra" "so unlike the home-life of our dear queen" would be shocked by "The Isle of Penguins,"—seriously shocked. But it is doubtful whether she would not be more shocked still by Voltaire's "Candide." The two books belong upon the same shelf. Who should read them and who should not, is a nice question, the answer to which I leave to divines. "I wol not han to do with such matere."

The contemptuous say that "The Isle of Penguins" is dangerous politically, because it advocates the destruction of a society which has failed in the pursuit of happiness and therefore advocates anarchy; that it is dangerous for religion, since its attitude is completely negative as regards religion itself, but most positive in its abuse of the accompaniments of the Christian religion; that it is dangerous morally, since it adopts the anthropological explanation of our morals, and traces results which, if sometimes ludierous, are terrible to contemplate; and that, though pessimistic, it is completely flippant in tone. They charge the author with attacking everything while believing in nothing; and maintain, finally, that the book as a whole is dangerous because it is irresponsible.

The particular charges I admit; the general, I deny. Anatole France does believe in something: he believes in intellectuality. The force of his attack upon humanity betrays some interest in the body attacked, even as Swift's brutal onslaught proved that he felt his enemies to be worth chastising. One does not analyze the weaknesses of the French character for four hundred pages, with contempt of the species as the only motive. The writer must at least assume an intellect sufficiently intelligent to appreciate attacks upon itself, and worthy to be written for! An ingenuous youth at a dinner given to France in the Argentine Republic declared that the writer had bestowed upon the young

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men of the republic a new conception of life. Surely the books this youth had read were positive as well as negative. And they are so, all of France's satiric They apply the test of intellectuality, or of the intellectual life, to the world, and then discourse of the reactions. The author has a standard of criticism and a basis for his satire. He is like his Colomban, who seems to stand for Zola in the Penguin's version of the Dreyfus case. Colomban, a short-sighted, hairy little man, alone of all the Penguins can apply reason to the affair of the alleged traitor. When he sees the truth, he acts upon it; and in spite of abuse, bruises, slander, threats, advances the banner of reason against the hosts of unreason and prejudice. When he is overwhelmed with the execrations of the multitude, he is content to remark, "The affair is more difficult than I had supposed." Tumbled into the Seine, sheltering his dripping body beneath a bridge in company with an old, lame horse, he merely persists, "This affair is more difficult than I had supposed." France is far more tactful than Colomban, but he displays the same consistency in advocating reason and the intellect. In this book he is in no sense a dilettante, and though often wrong - or at least one devoutly hopes so-is in no sense irresponsible.

But no more tenable is the position of those who are content merely to enjoy the exquisite wit, the charming style of "The Isle of Penguins," while they let the sincerity of the author take care of itself. Bernard Shaw and Anatole France are fellow-sufferers in this respect. Their wit, their style, cannot be wholly appreciated when divorced from its guiding principle. France's principles, or his application of them, must often be erroneous; otherwise it is a pretty world we live in. To ignore or deny them is to miss the full flavor of his work.

Nevertheless, there is much that is racial in principles, and in the satire which flows from them. It may be that the purely literary and artistic virtues of the books of Anatole France are more instructive for English readers than his philosophy, be that never so cogent. His satire is sometimes like French tobacco, designed for home consumption; whereas his literary art has earned its English rights since it has made singularly impressive a foreign mental attitude which is neither very novel nor particularly sympathetic.

Some of the literary virtues of this Frenchman are perhaps the virtues of the French in general. His style is clarity and grace itself; he has, what is so rare in English, a light pen for heavy matters; he never fails to make precise the half-thought or the subtle perception. But there is one virtue, one power, which is all his own: the satirical illumination of legend or history. He is not a good story-teller. He stops at too many pleasant cafés where one may rest awhile and discuss the situation; his characterization is too arbitrary. Yet he chooses story-telling for the discharge of his ideas, and so falls—unfortunately sometimes, successfully often—into a kind of narrative essay. In his best vein, he

holds with the modern historian that the chronicles preserve only the symbols of the past; then deduces from an old story the true happening. Every appearance of scholarship bolsters his work. Sylvestre Bonnard himself might be proud of the crudition, of the method; and yet the results are pure satire. One feels the ultra-modern intellect at work upon the foundations of tradition, and this satire outs home.

foundations of tradition, and this satire cuts home. "Les Sept Femmes de Barbe-Bleue," which everyone in France seemed to be reading in the summer of 1909, is a charming example of this uncomfortably effective process. "The Seven Wives of Bluebeard," though it gives the book its title, is not the best story. There is, for example, the miracle of the great St. Nicholas. Scientific scholarship proves that there were two saints of this name. Scientific scholarship, after the best models, identifies one of them as the holy man of the nurseryrhyme who miraculously synthesized the bodies of three children salted in a pork barrel. Back to the city of Trinqueballe the bishop - for this St. Nicholas was a bishop — led the fruits of his experiment, and there brought them up according to a policy of perpetual kindness, hoping thus to counteract the harshness of their years in the porkbarrel. But note the results of the miracle: one became a murderer and ravisher, one a swindler, and one a heretic. Thanks to the efforts of the three, Nicholas was despoiled of his wealth, bereft of his beloved niece, his bishopric torn by wars and dissensions, its faith made prey to indecent heresies, and he himself driven out to seek some hermitage where he might spend the little remainder of his life in puzzling over the mystery of the will of God. Yet the purpose of the miracle was not left unexplained. There was a hermit upon the lonely mountain-top where he sought for peace. It was the wicked inn-keeper who had salted the three unfortunates! The miracle had converted him; he was the soul saved by the universal wreck.

Then there is "La Chemise," a perfect work of its kind, almost as perfect in form - and this is rare with France — as it is pungent in substance. A king, as in the old tale, must have a shirt from a perfectly happy man if he is to be cured of his ills; but king and ills are modern. This ruler - who bears a strange resemblance to Leopold, the late lamented of Belgium-is a commercial success; he has learned to despise his ministers, and yet run a constitutional government without friction; he has learned to steer his course between popularity and unpopularity; but in spite of all the conveniences of a modern kingship, he is bored - bored until ennui becomes a disease. His physician belongs to the modern school which believes in natural remedies. Sea-air, mineral waters, for example, are excellent; and for this case, no less a tonic than the exudations from the skin of a perfectly happy man. Saint-Sylvan and Quatrefeuilles go forth to find the happy man and his shirt. They approach a noble peer; alas, he loves the public, and the public revile him for his solicitude. They seek a heroic duke; he is senile, the prey of his servants. They discover, with rejoicings, a country curé who lives an idyllic life among his peasants; his existence is a torture, for he no longer believes. The lover, the rich man, the wise, and a dozen of those intermediate types which modern society provides, are but new figures for the comedy. Women they do not seek. It will not do to feminize the king's ideas of happiness, and besides, says Saint-Sylvan, "I observe that, in our class, they do not bring up their children, do not direct their households, know nothing, do nothing, and kill themselves with fatigue; they consume themselves in shining,-their life is a kind of candle; I ignore if it is enviable." And, last of all, Mousque, a poor half-witted creature who plays about in the king's park and makes toys for the children. "As happy as Mousque," the people say. He is happy,—he admits it when they explain to him the nature of happiness; but when they offer him gold, a palace, a new pair of shoes, for his shirt, his face expresses only surprise. He had no shirt!

And it is thus that this good Anatole France teases his penguins. Is he a notable figure in contemporary literature? Certainly he is an artist with novel means at his disposal; certainly a powerful satirist with a consistent standard of criticism. Yet, if notable, it is not because his point of view is new - it was Voltaire's before him-but because of the skill and the modernity of its application. One is tempted to call him the Swift of France: in spite of the dangers of comparison, one is still more tempted to call him the Voltaire of the twentieth century, though a very limited and specialized Voltaire, who advances, as the only guide, a very up-to-date intellect: indeed, a Voltaire so individual that it would be well to exhaust the resemblance, and drop it, before we begin to compare some writer of our own to Anatole France.

HENRY SEIDEL CANBY.

CASUAL COMMENT.

THE REPROACH OF ACADEMICISM, which that vigorous and independent thinker, Thomas Davidson, the "wandering scholar" (as his biographer, Dr. William Knight, aptly called him), used to throw up against the college-trained man, is still one that waits to be entirely removed. Undoubtedly the modern varied curriculum, despite its faults, produces fewer prigs and pedants than did the old-time college course that demanded of the student little beyond an ability to read and remember, and that placed a premium on drudgery rather than on intellect. A correspondent of the New York "Evening Post," Professor Hiram Bingham of Yale, offers a suggestion which, if universally followed, might go far toward removing the reproach of academicism, and toward making the mere drudge much less successful in his pursuit of academic honors. "The bane of our present college teaching," Mr. Bingham

believes, "is the frequency of questions beginning with 'what' and 'who,' and the infrequency of those beginning with 'why' and 'how.' Of course such questions are harder to make out, harder to answer, and harder to mark than those designed to see whether the student can give back what he has heard the instructor say, or has read in the textbook. But my own experience has been that the results are correspondingly far more satisfactory." This substitution of the "why" and "how" for the "what" and "who" would certainly discourage the cowardly though comforting habit of clinging to the text-book as to a life-preserver.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY A PUBLIC PANACEA-such, in brief, is the burden of the song, or hymn of praise, that greets the delighted ears of librarian and assistants at a certain great city library with many branches. Patrons of this institution have given uttterance to so many expressions of appreciation and gratitude for benefits received, that the library has issued an anthology of these eloquent tributes. This florilegium (to be sure, it is not in verse, or if it is the scansion is defective) is entitled, "Results not Shown by Statistics in the Work of the Public Libraries of Greater New York." We give a few choice extracts. An Irishman is reported as saying: "My children are getting so d-n smart at school that I am obliged to use the library to keep ahead of them." "My!" exclaimed another reader, in praise of the library's collection of music scores, "I could hear two or three operas on the money I saved by coming to the library for music scores.' A French woman, a semi-weekly frequenter of the library, said: "I don't know what we should have done without the library this winter. My husband and I could in former years go to the theatres once in a while; but this has been such a hard winter that we could not afford any such luxuries. The library has furnished us with all our pleasures this winter." And another woman: "I have had a great deal of trouble. Everything in life has failed me, and if it were not for my books I should go crazy." This from a man of enterprise: "I was a barber, and have been able to become an electrician with the aid of the books in the library." And so on, through fourteen pages of fine print, in far greater variety and detail than can here be even hinted at. It is a little book to warm the librarian's

A SUGGESTION TO BUYERS OF GIFT-BOOKS for Christmas may not be out of order. Many places too small to support a good book-store do maintain an excellent public library, and at the library may be seen and examined, with the aid and consent of the librarian, a collection of recent and desirable holiday publications, from which certain titles, with publishers' names and perhaps also with prices, may be noted for subsequent orders on the nearest book-dealer. The public library of Jackson, Michigan, makes a practice of exhibiting at this season

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books suitable for gifts to children. It might well make its exhibition more comprehensive, as the grown-ups, too, like to receive presents in the shape of books. The Jackson method may be indicated by an extract from the current Report of the librarian. "The Christmas exhibition of Children's books suitable for gifts was again held, and attracted much attention. Upon request to the publishers seventy-two books were donated, and forty-two were lent us by the State Library; the total number of books shown was 235. . . . The present collection of gift books for children has been of great use to teachers and parents, and inquiries about it have come from all over the State."

THE POEM THAT THE PEOPLE LIKE BEST, according to the editor of the "Notes and Queries" department of the Boston "Transcript," seems to be that favorite of our tender years, "The Blackberry Girl," by Mrs. Nancy Dennis Sproat. No other piece of verse is asked for and inquired about so often as this touching tale of piety and poverty, beginning, as many will remember:

"Why, Phebe, are you come so soon?
Where are your berries, child?
You cannot, sure, have sold them all:
You had a basket piled."

The whole story of blackberries spilled and the anguish of dark despair and the final emergence of the sun of happiness from behind the thunder-clouds of gloom takes twenty-one of these four-line stanzas in the telling. They were published as early as 1829, in Boston, in a collection of Mrs. Sproat's writings entitled "Stories for Children in Familiar Verse." But it is probable that "The Blackberry Girl" had already been separately given to the world in some newspaper or other periodical. In 1833 it re-appeared in a reading-book called "The Child's Guide," published by the old and famous house of George Merriam, at Springfield. Probably few, even of those who best remember the poem, are aware that it had a sequel, "What the Blackberry Girl Learned at Church, or The Blackberry Girl Continued."

THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, who died Nov. 29, at Burlington, was one of our comparatively few scholars of the good ald sort, well-versed in the Greek and Latin classics, and master of a literary style at once ornate and clear. It is now thirty-nine years since Matthew H. Buckham succeeded Dr. James B. Angell (upon the latter's acceptance of the presidency of Michigan University) as head of the University of Vermont; and in that time he has added to the laurels of scholarship the well-earned fame of an able administrator, and the institution under his direction has flourished notably. The mere titles of some of his printed discourses indicate the breadth and sanity of his mind, - as, for example, "The Love of Difficulty," "The Culture of the Imagination," "Dead Languages Forsooth," "The Real Bible," "Reserve in Matters of Religion," and "The Economic Situation." He was an occasional contributor to educational magazines, but his lifework is more substantially commemorated in the later buildings and professorships of the Vermont University than in the domain of literature.

TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE OF DEMAND FOR THE LATEST LIBRARY BOOKS the obvious thing to do is to buy additional copies - if the requisite funds are available. The generous policy of the Springfield (Mass.) City Library is thus stated in the current Report of that well-managed institution: "Whenever four names are on the waiting list for a book, unless the demand appears purely spasmodic, an additional copy is bought. This applies chiefly to new and popular works of non-fiction. Standard works for which the demand is fairly constant should usually be obtainable with less delay, and especial attention has been paid to procuring suffi-cient copies of such books. Libraries do not hesitate to buy many copies of the new, more-or-less ephemeral fiction, and it would seem to be no less a duty to multiply copies of the standard histories, biographies, and other works of literature. Readers unable to obtain books readily may have their wants attended to by filling out a slip entitled 'Books never in.'" This liberality of supply may, and indeed must, lead to congestion, sooner or later, in certain instances of books over-rated at the time of their appearance. But there are always springing up new public libraries to which the less desired duplicates are likely to prove an acceptable offering; and so the greatest benefit to the greatest number will be effected.

THE DEATH OF LIBRARIAN BURR OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE deprives that institution of one of its most useful and most highly esteemed faculty members. A graduate of the college (class of '68), Charles H. Burr was called in 1888 from the pastorate of the Bethany Congregational Church in New York to take charge of the library of his alma mater, where he devoted twenty-two years of skilled service to the formidable task of transforming an old-fashioned, rudely classified, imperfectly catalogued, and laxly administered college library into a modern, scientifically classified, adequately catalogued, and wisely managed college library. Like many another devoted to the somewhat dry technicalities of this learned profession, Mr. Burr had a dry humor of his own that cropped out in speech and in writing; and he will be missed not only for his scholarly and administrative ability, but also for his genialty and companionableness as a man.

THE PERIODICAL POETRY OF THE YEAR has been sifted by Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite, himself a poet of repute, in accordance with his custom of the last six years, and his results are published in the Boston "Transcript," as in previous years. He selects for his purpose six magazines that, as he affirms, "publish the best, and not only the best, but

the greatest number of poems." These six encouragers of contemporary poets are "The Atlantic," "The Century," "Scribner's," "Harper's," "Me-Clure's," and "Lippincott's," which in the year now closing have published, respectively, 34 poems (12 of distinction), 69 (19 of distinction), 42 (13 of distinction), 62 (16 of distinction), 36 (9 of distinction), and 48 (8 of distinction). It is noteworthy, but not surprising, that the "Atlantic" has the highest proportion of distinguished poems, according to Mr. Braithwaite's rating. He chooses six for reprinting at the end of his article, and of these three are from the "Atlantic," two from the "Century," and one from "Scribner's," the names of the six poets thus crowned being Grace Fallow Norton, George Edward Woodberry, Louise Imogen Guiney, Ellen Angus French, Cale Young Rice, and Timothy Cole.

THE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION OF AN ENG-LISH CLASSIC known by name at least to every one, and by far the "best seller" in the book-trade of to-day, is to be held next April. It ought to be superfluous to give the name of this book, one or more copies of which are to be found in nearly every English-speaking household in the land, and the phraseology of which has made a permanent place for itself in our spoken and written language; and yet it may not instantly occur to every one that in the year 1611, on a day now no longer accurately determinable, there was published in England that masterpiece of clear, forcible, idiomatic, and pieturesque English, the King James version of the Bible. It is proposed by the American Bible Society to devote the first Sunday after Easter to a general commemoration of this publishing event. Among the topics suggested for addresses and lectures are these: "The story of the growth of the English Bible from the first translations to the King James version," "Later revisions and translations," "The influence of the Bible on English literature," "The influence of the Bible on customs, laws, government, and social life," and "The English Bible and civil liberty."

GENIUS AND MADNESS have ever been regarded as closely akin. The gift of poetry is especially likely to be confused with unsoundness of mind by the severely practical. "Aut insanit homo, aut versus facit," Horace makes his slave Davus say of him. Sophocles in his old age was charged with insanity by his unfilial son Iophon, and was summoned by him before the Phratores, to whom he read, in proof of his mental soundness, a splendid passage from his lately-written but not yet produced "Œdipus at Colonus," and so made his poetry clear him of that suspicion of imbecility which, had he been a stock-broker or a hardware-dealer instead of a poet, would probably never have rested upon him. And now, si parva licet componere magnis, a poet of no mean ability is said to have been recently discovered in a Minnesota asylum for the insane. Was it her addiction to poetry that caused her confinement? Still another public institution (a penitentiary this time) of the same State shelters a writer of verse that has met with acceptance in high quarters in the magazine world; and the alleged reason for his seclusion too may be defined as a sort of insanity, if one takes the view that all sin is but unsoundness, or insanitas, of the moral nature. But, after all is said, there remains a large proportion of the mentally or morally mad who possess neither poetic nor any other kind of genius; and also there are many poets and poetasters who have never incurred the faintest suspicion of any sort of phrensy, either divine or diabolical.

. . . THE PROFITS OF PASTIME are not always confined to those returns of enjoyment and reinvigoration that make pastime so emphatically worth while. Sometimes a person's play is more remunerative, pecuniarily, than his serious labor. Lewis Carroll (or Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, as he was known to his friends and acquaintances) varied the monotony of preaching sermons and writing textbooks on higher mathematics by giving the rein to his playfulness of humor in those immortal adventures of Alice that so delighted the circle of little girls who formed his audience, and that have since been the joy of other children of all ages up to ninety or over. One is glad to learn, from the life of Lewis Carroll now added to the season's stock of good books, that these merry whimsicalities of his leisure hours yielded him such returns that he could devote himself to the sublimities of higher mathematics without feeling that he was frittering away time that should have been devoted to bread-winning pursuits.

A MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS, or something approaching it, confronts the sight-seer in Berlin who visits the new Royal Library. The rambling old palace that formerly held this precious collection of books has been superseded by the nearest approach to a sky-scraper known to the library world. The new building towers aloft to the height of thirteen stories, and its bookstack contains more than fifty miles of shelving, or capacity therefor, its 1,300,000 books filling already nearly thirty-two miles of this shelving. In fifty years, or in less time if the world's production of books continues at its present rate of annual increase, this many-storied stack will be filled. But there is always plenty of room at the top, and, within the limits imposed by building laws and laws not made by man, bookstacks can always grow in an upward direction. However, before another halfcentury has passed perhaps our librarians will invent some satisfactory sifting process to relieve the pressure on their shelves, or possibly a second Omar will solve the problem by burning our enormous collections of books and giving us a chance to begin over again.

THE FIRST AVIATOR was undoubtedly Dædalus, with his son Icarus as a close second. The successful flight of Dædalus from Crete to Italy, and his unfortunate son's altitude record, do not here con-

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cern us. What does concern all interested in curiosities of literature is the finding of an early treatise on aërial navigation from the pen of no less a celebrity than Jean Jacques Rousseau. "Men walk on the earth," says Rousseau, "they sail on the water, and swim in it. Is not the air an element, like the others. What business have the birds to shut us out of their domain while we are made welcome in that of the fishes?" To Rousseau's restless and inquiring mind the problem of man-flight resolved itself into the two subsidiary problems of finding a body lighter than air and so capable of rising, and, secondly, of discovering some means to make it stop rising and (hardest of all) to compel it to descend. "Le Nouveau Dédale" - for thus the little book was happily named - is said to have first found its way into print in the year 1801; but it was ahead of its day, and so lapsed into speedy oblivion, to be revived a century later.

A TWICE-TOLD TALE OF THE STEAMBOAT that is curious enough to merit a passing note is to be read in the two like-named and simultaneously published books of the season, "Steamships and their Story" by Mr. E. Keble Chatterton, and "Steam-Ships and their Story" by Mr. R. A. Fletcher, — both large octavos, illustrated with almost equal profusion and partly in color, and pursuing much the same plan of tracing the development of the latest turbine monster of the deep from the earliest beginnings of steamboat construction. This is another instance of the mysterious impulse that so often prompts two persons (or it may be three or more) to say or write the same thing at the same time.

THE END OF THE CHAUCER SOCIETY is announced in a public letter from Professor Skeat. It is a deliberate and voluntary termination of its activities that is now in prospect. Established in 1868, the society's original intention was to continue in existence for about twenty or thirty years, whereas it has now been beneficently active for forty-two years, doing excellent work in the elucidation and publication of Chaucer texts. It has earned a rest from its labors.

COMMUNICATION.

PRESIDENT POLK'S DIARY.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

In your issue of November 16 appears a long review of "President Polk's Diary," lately published in your city from the original manuscript now owned by the Chicago Historical Society. The reviewer observes of the Bancroft copy of that Diary, in the Lenox Library at New York, that the only writers who have yet drawn upon it are two recent ones specified by him, and he calls repeated attention to the rich opportunity for new historical research afforded by the present publication.

I should like to point out that the Lenox Library copy of "Polk's Diary," clearly typewritten, and handsomely bound, and purchased long ago with the MSS. Collection left by George Bancroft, has been known and appreciated for many years by historical investigators,

of whom I may claim to be the earliest, as well as the first to call public attention to the work and make statement of its contents. In 1894 I made a diligent study of all the Polk papers in that collection, and published two articles in the "Atlantic Monthly" in 1895— "President Polk's Diary" (August), and "President Polk's Administration" (September). Both of these articles were reprinted in my volume of "Historical Briefs," published in 1896.

That President Polk's papers were well preserved by his widow in Tennessee and included his own "Diary" of his administration, I learned from Mr. Bancroft himself in 1887; and the circumstances under which he, that same year, procured the copies from Mrs. Polk for his own use in Washington, are detailed in the former of these articles. While preparing the narrative of President Polk's Administration for my "History of the United States" (Vols. 4 and 5) I tried in vain to get access to to these copies; and as soon as the Bancroft manuscripts were purchased and made available—the venerable author having died in 1891—I hastened to examine them, by way of revising my own volume, published shortly before. The two "Atlantic Monthly" articles were intended as a sequel commentary to my narrative; and when in 1904 new plates were made for my History I revised the text so as to incorporate the

Mrs. Polk survived George Bancroft several years; and as the ex-President's papers did not come into the market until long after the Bancroft Collection had been purchased by the Lenox Library, these copies of the Polk papers were readily accessible to scholars long before the originals. I presume that the Lenox Library copy of "Polk's Diary" is full and accurate in all respects.

James Schouler.

respects.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 3, 1910.

[I am extremely sorry that in writing the review of "Polk's Diary," I was in ignorance of the fact that Mr. Schouler had used it and printed material based upon it, previous to its publication. In attempting to check the statements in the preface and introduction, to the effect that the Diary had "occasionally been used" by historians, I naturally turned first of all to Mr. Schouler's well-known work. Unfortunately, that happened to be the first edition of the "History of the United States," in preparing which the Diary was not accessible to the author. I failed to examine either the later edition or the "Historical Briefs." These omissions I greatly regret. That Mr. Schouler has made use of the Polk MSS. is not surprising; it is only surprising that the reviewer should not know of such use by a scholar of reputation. This, however, is the case. While the Lenox Library copy of the Diary undoubtedly offered opportunities to those who could get to it, the appearance of the Diary in print is surely a genuine "incentive to research." Neither Mr. Reeves nor Mr. Garrison, whom I mentioned, used the Lenox Library copy exclusively; the former had resource both to the Chicago MSS. and to the copy; and the latter had the Chicago MSS. copied expressly for his own use. What I have meant to say is that the Diary in print is now widely available, and that no writer has exhausted its content or bearing. - THE REVIEWER.]

The Rew Books.

A PUBLICIST OF TWO NATIONS.*

The late Goldwin Smith's book of "Reminiscences" expresses the conclusions of one who was deeply occupied with the general welfare; who came into large and varied contact with the leading persons and events of his time, and prought to their consideration an independent, penetrative, and judicial mind. The author says of himself that he was not ambitious, and the events of his life seem to confirm this opinion. He was more than once solicited to run for office; yet, with liberal means and delicate health, he never allowed himself to come under the exactions of hard labor. In boyhood he was a scholar at Eton, where he came in contact with boys who were to play a prominent part in life. Later he was a student at Oxford, where he became a tutor and then a professor-the last and the most permanent position that he held in England. The period of the profes-sorship is given as 1858-1866, and was later than his residence in London. He was a member of several public commissions fitted to add to his influence. He was interested in current events in Ireland, in our Civil War, and in the insurrection in Jamaica. In all these movements and events the spirit of philanthropy prevailed with him.

Prior to his Oxford professorship, he began the study of law in London, but found its demands too severe for his health. He spent several years in London, and for three years was on the staff of "The Saturday Review." In 1868 he made a second journey to America, and became for two years professor in Cornell University. He removed thence to Toronto, where he remained some forty years, until his recent death.

These diverse experiences were interspersed with travels, — visits to Europe and to America. While not under the pressure of current events, he was profoundly interested in them, and bore by personal intercourse and by writing a part in them. His interest was confined to no one class or country, and was never locked up in a particular philanthropy. As a student in Oxford he was brought in contact with the leaders in the Tractarian Movement. His religious feelings are not prominent in the "Reminiscences," and yet we are led to feel that

the opinions and methods he encountered were often distasteful to him. He was conversant with men of literary eminence, and gives us an occasional criticism. What he says of Emerson is so concurrent with my own feeling that I give it in full:

"I cannot honestly say that I ever got much from his writings. I can find no system; I find only aphorisms; an avalanche, as it were, of unconnected pebbles of thought, some of them transparent; some translucent, some to me opaque. Carlyle introduced Emerson to the British public as one who brought new fire from the empyrean. But the two men in genius were leagues apart, and Carlyle at last found the new fire a bore."

Goldwin Smith was thoroughly democratic in his tendencies, and judged men and things chiefly in their bearing on the general welfare. It was political events more than other events that occupied his mind. He regarded as the deepest issue in our Civil War the cardinal difference between slavery and freedom. He did not allow this issue to be pushed aside or covered up by any secondary issues which might have arisen in connection with While he seems to us to do full justice to Lincoln, he does not fall into the indiscriminate laudation that has become the fashion. As one who, in a living experience, was familiar not only with the war but with the events that preceded it and prepared the way for it, I have felt that Lincoln's chief merit lay in his unfailing honesty. He entertained all forms of human welfare according to the measures of his own character, and never allowed himself to forget them or to be turned from them by immediate interests. He did not, however, enter into the depths of the ethical struggle involved in the war. He entertained the apologetic and partial reasons which occupied public attention and concealed in part the true force of events. The working classes in England had a more thoroughly correct view of the war than most Americans. The question was not whether we should allow another nation to spring up on the soil of the United States, but whether a slaveholding nation should establish itself at our side with exacting and hostile claims. A war was inevitable, - should we meet it in its earliest and weakest form, or allow the forces of evil full opportunity of accumulation? Lincoln felt the crisis, but rather as a national crisis than one in the history of the world. His methods had sufficient patience and insight to succeed, but hardly enough to turn victory into moral enthusiasm. The things most striking in his addresses, as that at Gettysburg, was the

^{*}Reminiscences. By Goldwin Smith, D.C.L. Edited by Arnold Haultain, M.A. Illustrated. New York: The Macmillan Co.

perfectly simple and straightforward way in which he contemplated the facts.

We have stood as a nation for democratic principles,-the universal recognition of human rights; but it has been largely because our interests have been identified with these principles rather than because we have accepted them as of universal application. When prosperity invited a departure from fundamental opinions, we have readily strayed into the forbidden paths of tyranny. We have been fortunate in our European admirers; they have been truer than we have been to our best convictions. Carl Schurz and Goldwin Smith felt at once the derelictions into which we were falling. Goldwin Smith could see but little in the present Republican Party of the promise contained in its early history. While he regarded our present pension system as a negation of merit and a complete subserviency of politicians to an unscrupulous vote, the only good he saw in it was an enormous expense frightening us from war. His repugnance to war rested on a sense of the immense evil it brings to society.

Among those in English politics on whose character and services the writer dwells were Disraeli, Gladstone, and Cardwell. The latter was for a time Irish Secretary, and thus involved in that tangle of evils, impossible of correction, which has so long perplexed both peoples. To have brought any firm and sufficient policy to Ireland is the highest of records. Acknowledging the wonderful power and facility of execution which belonged to Gladstone, Goldwin Smith saw also clearly the restricted action of his mind in some directions, and the rapidity with which he was liable to fall into extreme measures.

Goldwin Smith's dislike of Disraeli was so strong as somewhat to overstrain his candor. The success of Disraeli in English politics is proof both of his own power and the perversion of thought still possible in England. The current of censure directed against Disraeli, though well deserved, has doubtless carried away at times the banks of the stream, and tumbled some shapely trees into the river.

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Goldwin Smith belonged to the Manchester school, the school of free trade so long and so beneficently led by Cobden and Bright. Perhaps no man in English politics preserved so uniformly a broad and generous view in his speeches as did Bright. Sound sentiment in trade seemed to temper all his thinking and impart to him a universal philanthropy. Goldwin Smith escaped the narrowness that sometimes

grew out of a single interest of trade. It was possible to attack protection simply as an obstacle to one's own occupation. Goldwin Smith was an advocate of trade unions as a necessary defense of the workman against the drift of social causes and the encroachments of capital. No class more needs a careful consideration of its own welfare and the assertion of its rights as a leading constituent in society.

Goldwin Smith belonged to the class of constant, consistent, and reasonable critics,—a class to which much of our progress will always be due. No temper requires more balance, more self-restraint, than the reformatory temper. It is one thing to figure a perfect social state,—often in oversight of many new evils ready to be set in motion,—and quite another thing to see and urge the correction that lies next in order. Goldwin Smith preserved his hold on active influential men while striving to enlarge and redirect their efforts.

JOHN BASCOM.

VENICE IN HER DECADENCE.*

Perfection being inhuman, every book must perforce have some fault; yet just what is the fault of M. Philippe Monnier's "Venice in the Eighteenth Century" it is difficult to say unless it be an embarrassment of charm. Reading it now in the English translation after having read it in the original French a year or more ago, one's belief that it is an enchanting, as well as accurate, word-picture of a delightful, albeit decadent, age is thoroughly confirmed. Yet the reader must know Venice to enjoy to the full the charm of this book, so permeated is it with the spirit of the city of the lagoons. If you know Venice, M. Monnier will transport you there; seat you in a frail gondola; guide you through an enchanting maze of dark canaletti to the Lunetta; and there debark you so deftly that, when you follow him into the glorious piazza beyond, forgetful of the grime and soot of the material place in which you dwell, you will actually believe yourself to be in Venice at carnival - a time when "there is no more day nor night, no more appointed hour for sleep or dinner, no more restraint, stability, or rule"; a time when "folly shakes her bells, fiddles are tuned, and all feet are agog to dance.'

Until the last page is turned, you will not realize that you have been reading a treatise as

^{*}Venice in the Eighteenth Century. From the French of Philippe Monnier. Boston: The Gorham Press.

scholarly as it is delightful; for, although M. Monnier colors with the charm of a Watteau, his outlines are as true as the most rigid naturalist could demand. Indeed, he is what might be termed an artistic scholar, if that be not a paradox — or, to put it more clearly, an artist who feels and a scholar who knows.

Although he is erudite as well as artistic, M. Monnier has no sociological theories to propound, no historical lessons to preach. He realizes that the age he is portraying is a petty age, yet he knows that even in her decadence Venice remained great; for, as he wisely puts it, "her greatness had been built upon the rock of her past, and this past was potent still." It is no mere word-artist who, studying that eighteenth century, so petty in Italy, so pertinent in France, has the historical acumen to see that in that age "Venice stands out conspicuously from the rest of Italy, not only because of her unique independence, but because she is the city where life was most vivid, most intense, and that "never in the whole of her history had she been freer of the influence of Rome than at this moment of supreme civilization; never had she seemed more worthy of her cleverness and of her beautiful dialect, never more signally, more triumphantly Venetian." Furthermore, it takes a man of greater insight than the mere delightful chronicler of follies that M. Monnier appears to be in many instances, to analyze the very folly he is chronicling and make it clear to the reader that:

"Never in the history of the world had there been a time when the element of tragedy was so conspicuously absent from the scheme of things. Never had human life been so void of all heroism. And never had there been such joyous, childish laughter in the world, as at this moment of termination to a period that reeked of passion and blood."

Though history tempers M. Monnier's pages, his book is no history, but rather a series of dissolving views in which a people and an age are pictured with an artist's touch. Yet with all the bold dashes of color that illuminate these pages, the man who knows his Venice will feel that the color is characteristically true; while he who has studied the particular age whereof M. Monnier writes will recognize that here that age is painted more charmingly, truthfully, and concisely than in any other book about it. Painted is the very word: no other will describe what the author has done; even a bungling translator cannot wholly destroy the charm of such a colorful picture of Venice on a summer's day as this:

"Out of a veil of tenderest blue, soft as mist, cradled in a translucent vapour, rises the city of the sea like a dream of rose and marble. Air and water seem to merge themselves with the vision of her past, and to weave for her a robe of fantasy, where opal and mother-of-pearl, coral, old ivory, and old silver are wedded in a riot of pink, palest violet, and lucent grey. Over everything there is a wonderful brightness. It bathes the domes, the cupolas, the towers of the city in an exquisite luminosity, displaying their spires and pinnac-les in a trellised daintiness more like lace than stone." The words "exquisite luminosity" have a euphuistic sound, but they are the translator's own, not a suggestion of them appearing in M. Monnier's original. Indeed it is to be hoped that the distinguished author of this book does not understand English, else a very bad quarter of an hour will be his when he reads his charming work in our guttural tongue. Take, for instance, the very passage we have just quoted. In the original French it reads in this exquisite

"Sur une soie d'azur tendre, dans une gaze de vapeur molle, au sein d'une poussière lumineuse, surgit la cité anadyomène comme une fantaisie de marbre rose. L'eau, le nuage et le passé s'accordent à lui tisser un vêtement de nuance, où la nacre et l'opale, le corail et la perle, le vieil ivoire et le vieil argent s'appellent, se répondent, se marient, se pâment, s'épanchent en roses veinés, en violets pâles, en gris transparents et mobiles. Une clarté charmante enveloppe et pénètre les dômes, les coupoles, les campaniles, qui y baignent leurs bulbes, qui y trempent leurs épis, qui y déploient les grâces ajourées d'une pierre en dentelle."

The inapt translator has apparently been utterly baffled by M. Monnier's delightful imagery, not a vestige remaining in his garbled version of the thought that beautiful Venice rises out of the misty sea like Aphrodite Anadyomene at her birth. Yet M. Monnier's imagery is not really so baffling as it seems, and needs but to be translated to convey the very impressions he intended to convey, the following being but a literal rendering of the passage in question:

"On a silk of tender blue, in a gauze of soft mist, on the breast of radiant spray, the Anadyomene city rises like a caprice of roseate marble. The water, the clouds, and the past conspire in weaving for her a various garment wherein nacre and opal, coral and pearl, old ivory and old silver call and respond one to another, wed, faint, and are disclosed in veined roses, pale violets, and transparent, changeable greys. An enchanting light envelopes and penetrates the domes, the cupolas, and the church towers, which bathe their bulbs therein, steep their crests, and unfold the fretted charms of a stone in the form of lace."

Here the original text has been followed far too conscientiously, it being apparent that "tissue" and "veil" are nicer words than "silk" and "gauze," and that a translator should not be too faithful in his allegiance to the Latin roots and construction of the original. Only in the word "fretted" has any great liberty been taken, the heraldic term "ajouré," although Englished, being too un-English to serve in even so literal a translation as is here attempted. The passage has been rendered thus faithfully in order to demonstrate the gross liberties the anonymous translator of this book has taken with M. Monnier's deft imagery; for, although "translucent vapour," "lucent grey, and "exquisite luminosity" stand forth in vulgar crudity, it is chiefly when imagery appears to confound him that he - or, more likely, she -demonstrates that just so long as Anglo-Saxon publishers, to pare shillings or dollars, confide the translating of foreign masterpieces to literary hacks instead of to literary artists, will foreign masters be butchered mercilessly.

To return to M. Monnier's book and the petty age it pictures, it may be said that the men of Venice were quite as little as their age—it being a truism that men make an age. Even Metastasio, great though his aspirations undoubtedly were, is great only in comparison with the dwarfs who surround him. Though an artist of the grand style, Tiepolo, to quote M. Monnier (who seems ever to be aptly quotable) "loved to delight his fancy with wonderful lights and strange architecture, beautiful draperies, beautiful forms, animals, and implements."

Indeed, the only man of that period who refused to delight his fancy with lights and draperies and beautiful forms was Goldoni. Being a lover of his kind, with a keen observance, this master of naturalistic comedy painted bits of life exactly as he saw them; yet too short of sight to penetrate the broad atmosphere enveloping the life he painted, he failed to see the relation of that life to the past or the future or even the times in which he lived; therefore, though a great naturalist, he was not that higher thing, a great realist, such as Molière proved himself to be in Le Misanthrope, Tartuffe, and Le Festin de Pierre. As a true picture of a bit of humorous life, Le Baruffe Chiozzotte is a masterpiece; yet, though we may laugh at it till tears fill our eyes, while exclaiming how true it is, it will never make us ponder. Though the greatest man of his age in Italy, Goldoni must therefore be given a place on the second rung of the ladder, his limitations being due to the fact that, though he saw clearly and sanely everything about him, he never pondered upon the origin of the things he saw, upon their relation to each other, or upon their outcome.

Understanding Goldoni as thoroughly as he understands his petty age, M. Monnier thus portrays both the charm and the limitations of this commanding figure of eighteenth century Venice:

"No one ever invented more situations, imagined more events, wove more intrigues, arranged more incidents, seized more opportunities for fun, marshalled more characters, produced more persons, imparted more gaiety, and scattered or poured out a greater profusion of his riches with more recklessness of heart. The laughter, which arose from this jumble, was frank and fresh, pure and unrestrained, thoughtless and untinged by bitterness. It rose in the air like the gay outburst of a joyful heart.

"With the directness of a natural force and the elemental simplicity of a creature from a golden age, he calmed and simplified existence. Always eager and obliging, charitable and good-humoured, he was as undefiled as water from a spring, as transparent as a crystal. Conscious of his limitations, he was content with the talents which he had, and employed them as he could. In spite of seorn and derision and misunderstanding, he triumphed over all obstacles with his smile, avenged all offences by forgiving them, and continued to vouchsafe to all, bad and sad and wicked alike, a salutary example of good-humor. "Gran Goldoni" the crowd shouted with enthusiasm on Carnival evenings dead and gone. For all these reasons he was great."

Here Goldoni is not patriotically exalted, as many Italians have exalted him, nor chauvinistically belittled, as many Frenchmen have belittled him, but justly given his true place as a naturalist, who "calmed and simplified existence" and whose humor was the "gay outburst of a joyful heart." Nor is he deified as the "Molière of Italy," be it remarked,— a misnomer beneath the crushing weight of which Goldoni has all but perished. On the contrary, he is Italy's Gran Goldoni—the most "salutary example of good humor" in the entire realm of the drama.

This judicial quality makes M. Monnier's book valuable; its charm has already been set forth, therefore little need be added except to say that it tells of gaiety and love in Venice as well as of that Sybaritic city's literature, music, and drama in the century of her decay; tells, too, of how her people lived and of how her freedom perished when the span of its pleasure-loving life had been run. It is a book for Platonists, however, not for matter-of-fact Aristotelians; and, furthermore, it is a book for those who love Italy and particularly Venice. By these it should be read; but in the original French if possible, much of its charm being lost in the translation.

H. C. CHATFIELD-TAYLOR.

CHINA'S "OLD BUDDHA." *

"Though only a woman, Her Majesty Tzu Hsi has all the courage of a man, and more than the ordinary man's intelligence." Thus wrote His Excellency Ching Shan, while the Boxers raged through the imperial capital of China; and with this statement will everyone agree who reads the intensely interesting pages of "China under the Empress Dowager." two years dead, it is impossible to pass a final verdict upon her wonderful career; but one thing seems certain beyond peradventure of doubt, — the "Old Buddha" will stand out as one of the great women of all time, and as the greatest of Chinese queens.

The story of her life seems like a page out of some mediæval romance rather than one writ in the full light of the nineteenth century. And what a life it was! Born of good parentage, in 1835, selected as an Imperial concubine when not yet seventeen, she soon became the favorite of her dissolute master, and later, as mother of his heir, her position was unassailable. were stirring times within the Empire. In the southern provinces the Taipings were apparently in full control, with Nanking as their capital; and to this great rebellion, unequalled in modern history, was added a war with England and France which only ended with the capture of Peking and the flight of the Imperial household to Jehol, beyond the Great Wall. For the first time Tzu Hsi knew the sorrows of hurried flight before the "outer barbarians," who on this occasion destroyed the Summer Palace.

It was at Jehol that the Empress faced the first great conspiracy against her. The emperor, Hsien-Feng, had been failing rapidly. His death would necessitate a regency, and three of the Manchu nobles laid their plans to secure this power for themselves. Their success seemed assured, but they had reckoned without Tzu Hsi; their authority was short-lived, for on the return to Peking she asserted her rights, and the conspirators were condemned to suicide

or a felon's death.

Then began the first Regency (1861-1873), in which she formally shared authority with Tzu An, the late Empress Consort; but as a matter of fact the latter generally deferred to her more vigorous colleague, and rarely did Tzu Hsi have to force her will upon her co-

With the coming to age of her son, the Emperor T'ung-Chih, the joint Regency expired, and the supreme authority was nominally vested in the weak and dissipated youth. But the Dowager had tasted the sweets of power, and she could brook no interference. It was to her interest that in the event of her son's early death no heir remain to cause the widowed consort to become the Empress Dowager. So it has been widely believed that Tzu Hsi encouraged the youthful Emperor in his dissipations, and did nothing to protect him from their evil effects. At any rate, in January, 1875, the Emperor succumbed to small-pox, and "ascended the Dragon to become a guest on high." Then came the question of the succession. The young Empress was enceinte, and should a son be born he would become Emperor, which was not to the taste of Tzu Hsi. Supported by faithful officials and troops, she called a council of the Clansmen and high officials, and in spite of all opposition secured the succession of her sister's son, a grandson of the Emperor Tao-Kuang. In this way Tzu Hsi retained her authority, for the former co-Regents were continued, and the widowed Empress completely ignored. A few months later her death was recorded, - by suicide it was reported officially, but there were many who read a more sinister meaning into the pathetic story.

The enforced selection of Kuang-Hsu as Emperor caused a storm of protests from both Chinese and Manchus, for it meant a violation of the dynastic law and of the fundamental principle of ancestor worship. The heir should have been of a younger generation in order that he might perform the proper rites before his adopted parent's shrine. In this case the late Emperor was left without an heir, while the new Emperor was proclaimed as the adopted son of his uncle, the Emperor Hsien-Feng, and it was promised that as soon as a son was born he would act as the adopted son of the late Emperor. But this explanation was not satisfactory to many of the loyal supporters of the

throne.

The second Regency was marked by increasing bitterness between the co-Regents, to such an extent that the sudden death of the Empress Tzu An, in 1881, occasioned many misgivings. "Tzu An was dead. The playmate of her youth, the girl who had faced with her the

This period saw the collapse of the Taiping Rebellion, to which result the Empress Dowager contributed through her whole-hearted support of the great Viceroy, Tseng Kuo-fan.

^{*}CHINA UNDER THE EMPRESS DOWAGER. The History of the Life and Times of Tzu Hsi, compiled from State Papers and the Private Diary of the Comptroller of her Household. By J. O. P. Bland and E. Backhouse. Illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

solemn mysteries of the Forbidden City, the woman who later, because of her failure to provide an heir to the Throne, had effaced herself in favour of the Empress Mother, her poorspirited rival of many years — Tzu An would trouble her no more. Henceforth, without usurpation of authority, Tzu Hsi was free to direct the ship of State alone, sole Regent of the Empire."

In February, 1889, the "Old Buddha," as she was now familiarly called, handed over her powers to the Emperor, and for almost ten years she enjoyed a respite from her arduous labors; but even among the pleasures of the restored Summer Palace she did not lose track of the developments in Peking. In this period came the disastrous war with Japan, for which the Empress Dowager was not a little blamed, especially because of the diversion of funds designed for the navy to the rebuilding of the Summer Palace, and for the protection afforded Li Hung Chang, who by the southern Chinese especially was looked upon as an arch-traitor.

With the death of Prince Kung, the respected head of the Grand Council, the Emperor fell under the influence of the Cantonese reformer, Kang Yu-wei. Then began the "Hundred Days of Reform." Decrees were issued in rapid succession reforming the system of education and examination; the army and navy were to be reorganized, and reforms in other departments of government were announced. all the time the Emperor and the reformers realized that their most dangerous obstacle was the "Old Buddha." If she approved, all would go well; if she opposed, the result would be disaster. This led to the cleverly-planned coup d'etat which should have resulted in the arrest and confinement of the Empress Dowager and the execution of her loyal supporters. Yuan Shi-k'ai was selected as the leading actor in this palace revolution. He was to seize Jung Lu, Viceroy of Chihli and Commanderin-Chief of the foreign-drilled army, and also the most loyal servant of the Empress Dowager. Then, after having him beheaded, he was to lead the disciplined troops to Peking and there arrest the Empress. The plan was excellent, but the agent was human.

"Yuan reached Tientsin before noon, and proceeded at once to Jung Lu's Yamen. He asked Jung Lu whether he regarded him as a faithful blood brother. (The two men had taken the oath of brotherhood several years before.) 'Of course I do,' replied the Viceroy. 'You well may, for the Emperor has sent me to kill you, and instead, I now betray his scheme, because of my loyalty to the Empress Dowager and of

my affection for you.' Jung Lu, apparently unaffected by the message, merely expressed surprise that the Old Buddha could have been kept in ignorance of all these things, and added that he would go at once to the capital and see the Empress Dowager that same evening. Yuan handed him the Emperor's decree, and Jung Lu, travelling by special train, reached Peking soon after 5 p. m." From that moment events moved with startling rapidity. The Empress Dowager grasped the situation "with the courage and masculine intelligence that enabled her to overcome all obstacles," and a secret conference of the Conservative leaders was arranged. In less than two hours the whole of the Grand Council, several of the Manchu princes and nobles, and many of the high officials were gathered together, and "on their knees, the assembled officials besought her to resume the reins of government and to save their ancient Empire from the evils of a barbarian civilization." Early the next morning the Emperor was seized, and a decree issued in his name which stated that he had begged the Empress Dowager "to condescend once more to administer the Government" and that she had graciously consented. Then came the punishment of the reformers, although K'ang Yu-wei escaped in a British war-ship to Hong Kong, and later many of the reform decrees were reversed. The Emperor still lived, and there were many who believed that his "sudden death" was to be expected and, when the blow did not fall, believed that only fear of the southern Chinese and of foreign opinion caused the Empress to spare her traitorous nephew.

Following closely upon the revolution of 1898 came the Boxer Rising of 1900. The material for this period is of supreme interest, for it is the diary of His Excellency Ching Shan, a Manchu kinsman of the Empress Dowager's family who had held many high offices until his retirement in 1894. With the entry of the allied forces, three of the women of his household committed suicide, and he was murdered by his own son. The diary was found in his study, and saved from destruction at the hands of a party of Sikhs. It is a most remarkable human document. The Boxer madness is described from the inside. The hopes of the Empress that at last an instrument had been provided for the complete destruction of the hated barbarians, her rage at the fraudulent despatch from the Ministers demanding her abdication, the murder of von Ketteler, the German Minister, the "unfathomable ignorance" of many of the Manchu nobles, the endeavors of far-sighted officials to stem the flood of unreasoning hate,-all are vividly portrayed. We

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see her wavering between hopes and fears, crying out for the destruction of all foreigners and again sending fruit and melons to the beseiged legations; and we read a new explanation for the failure of the beseigers in the dogged refusal of Jung Lu to turn his cannon over to the Boxers.

Then came the march of the allies upon Peking, and once again the Empress Dowager knew the privations of a hurried flight before the masterful barbarians. This experience taught a needed lesson. Out of it emerged a changed woman, penitent for the evils brought upon the Empire and genuinely eager for the reforms which she now realized were sorely needed. From 1901 until her death in 1908 she moved in the front rank of the reformers, and her edicts even went beyond those that had caused the Emperor's retirement in 1898. The difference was this, that the Empress Dowager now urged reforms, and there was no one strong enough to oppose them.

Such are the events portrayed in "China under the Empress Dowager." Full of interest they certainly are, and the treatment is in full accord with the theme. Even the memorials and edicts so frequently quoted contain a literary charm seldom found in western state papers, and the extracts from the various diaries add a rare personal note. The book lends itself to quotation, -especially the excellent final chapter, in which an attempt is made to analyze the secret of Tzu Hsi's power over men. To both the general reader and the special student, this well-told story of a great queen and a remarkable woman cannot fail to be of interest and value. PAYSON J. TREAT.

NATURE'S WALKING DELEGATES.*

Mr. Le Gallienne's phrase, "walking delegates of the ideal," happily names all wooers of the Great Goddess of the Out-of-Doors; for do they not all go from point to point carrying in

*In the Catskills. Selections from the Writings of John Burroughs. With illustrations from photographs by Clifton Johnson. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.

WOOD WANDERINGS. By Winthrop Packard. Illustrated by Charles Copeland. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. FLORIDA TRAILS. As Seen from Jacksonville to Key West and from November to April inclusive. By Winthrop Packard. Illustrated from photographs by the author and others. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co.

others. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co.

UNDER THE OPEN SKY. Being a Year with Nature. By
Samuel Christian Schmucker. Illustrated by Katherine
Elizabeth Schmucker. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.
OCTOBER VAGABONDS. By Richard Le Gallienne. Illustrated by Thomas Fogarty. New York: Mitchell Kennerley.

their hearts the vision of that which they expect to see realized on the earth, and calling upon the rest of the world to see with their eyes? And as for walking, there is no other way. They have all learned long since that those who touch even the hem of their divinity's garment come not in automobiles or express trains, but in the humility and labor of their own footing. He who knows most among them tramps most, and the first sacrifice demanded of the neophyte is a generous out-wearing of buskin and cothurnus.

This season four princes among these ideal trampers are on the road, offering their companionship to all who will go with them - four princes of varied tastes and temperaments, differing both in the objects of their search and in their manner of talking by the way. Among them we best know Mr. Burroughs, whose breezy swinging stride or saunter - as the case may demand - over fields and through woodlands has put much good blood into our own veins. We are only too glad to renew our youth with him now by being taken a second time over some of the walks among the Catskills where Mr. Burroughs was born and where he learned to tramp. Good strenuous outings most of these are; and some of them, such as are described in "The Snow-Walkers" and "A White Day and a Red Fox," furnish the seasonable inspiration which we need to keep us in the open in spite of cold and storms. The essay on the Southern Catskills, which tells of Mr. Burroughs's first ascent of Slide Mountain, is particularly exhilarating. Others will be remembered as among the author's best descriptions of bird life. Mr. Clifton Johnson's photographs are genuinely illustrative, and furnish some good portraits of Mr. Burroughs.

Mr. Packard's "Wood Wanderings" are quiet strolls in less famous and less dramatic surroundings; but one does not expect to take fairy walks in bold regions - and we already know that when we walk with Mr. Packard we may expect to meet fairies. Starting out with the belief that "woodland glades and sundappled depths" may easily be peopled with fairies, sprites, and goblins, he sees that the fairies have stitched the poke-berries across the top to keep them from bursting, as is proved by the fact that "the marks of the needle show, and the tiny puckering made by drawing the thread very tight." He suspects the fairy urchins of taking bites from the partridge berries when their mothers are not looking, and is sure that the faint glow which you see in your path when you walk the wood at night is cast by the candles in the jack-o'-lanterns which these same urchins make from trillium fruit. The same delicate wit serves him in all his hobnobbing with the woodland, and glints back at people in the world outside, making the quaintest associations. He can but feel, he says, that the pure lives of the birches "radiate an influence among the swamp maples," and explains:

"Most of the lady birches stand aloof on the upland slopes; I notice not far enough away to forbid the handsome young maples from climbing out of their mire of dissipation to nibble the dry husks of gravelbank breakfast food and drink dew among them if they have the courage. But not all thus withdraw in whispering groups. Down into the swamp others have stepped, and stand among the rubicund roisterers. Social workers these without doubt, missionaries of the birch C. T. U., who thus give their lives nobly to teaching by example."

Under further special favor of the Brotherhood of Walkers, Mr. Packard received last year a roving commission which sent him south for the winter - but on a good ship and not on foot, -and gave his genius unlimited opportunity to exercise itself on "Florida Trails." The greater extent of this other spit of sand, which he says reminds him always of Cape Cod, has not blunted the fine point of his delightfully whimsical but nevertheless accurate observation. "The Florida heron," he says, "wading leg deep in the St. Johns River, has the same selfconscious dignity, the same absurd rhythmic hesitancy of motion as a wedding procession going up the aisle. I have seen a great many grooms wade in and I never saw anything a bit different." Blue birds and butterflies, cherokee roses and crocodiles, jasmine and pelicans, pigs and palmettos, and all the other varied exuberances of Florida, become in turn the shrines of his reverent but fanciful devotion. A number of photographs bring sunny remembrances of Palm Beach, Indian River, the Everglades, and numerous Keys to those who perforce must take their Florida second-hand.

A less well-known writer, Mr. Samuel C. Schmucker, in his group of essays entitled "Under the Open Sky," shows himself a competent instructor in this peripatetic school. It is quite wonderful to note how much information he imparts, with no malice prepense, and over how wide a range his wisdom extends. Has anyone told us before that in the spring the meadow-lark "because his yellow breast, now growing more brilliant in readiness for his nearing courtship, would betray him among the bare branches, is quite in the habit of turning his back to any living thing in the neighborhood whose movements he mistrusts"? Of the cricket he says: "His joy, so a scientist tells us, rises and falls so absolutely with the thermometer, that it is possible to calculate the temperature with a reasonable degree of precision by the pitch of the cricket's shrilling." In like manner we may learn from these carefullywritten pages wherein consists the poison of the poison ivy, how the seventeen-year locust spends his cabalistic existence, what method the bee follows in fertilizing the violet, how tragic and loveless is the old age of the grasshopper, how Jack-in-the-Pulpit seasons his religion with pepper, and many other secrets. Numerous illustrations, both marginal and full-page, give a further lift to the imagination.

We feel that all of these "delegates of the ideal " are poets at heart; but it is nevertheless a pleasure to find among them a poet so practised in verse-making that he finds it "easier to tell the strict truth in poetry rather than in prose." "October Vagabonds" is the enviable title of Mr. Le Gallienne's book, which—in the reviewer's plain prose - tells the story of a tramp from a summer paradise somewhere in western New York to some other place much

nearer the city -

"Enchanted journey! That begins Nowhere and nowhere ends."

But there is little plain prose in the story; for though not overweighted with verse, it is full of imagination and — is there a better term than literary? - fancy. If the word seems inappropriate at first, it proves gratefully true on perusal of the book; for Mr. Le Gallienne, lacking the trained observation of the naturalist, sees in trees and fields and hills the outward embodiment of the dreams of poets and prophets with which his mind is stored. "Can anyone deny," he asks, "that the meadows of the world are greener for the Twenty-third Psalm, or the starry sky the gainer in our imagination by the solemn cadences of the book of Job?" The orchards along the way grow more beautiful because they look like those in the country of King Aleinous, and the heavily-laden wains on the farms waken us to our identity with the past when they become "the slow-moving wagons of our Lady of Eleusis." Learners in this school of out-ofdoor idealism will be glad to know what books so keen a critic of the appropriate carried in They his knapsack and found not irrelevant. were these: J. W. Mackail's "Georgics," Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales, Shakespeare's Sonnets, Locke's "The Beloved Vagabond," "Selections from R. L.S.," Pater's "Marius the Epicurean," and Alfred de Musset's "Premières Poésies." "Colin," Mr. Le Gallienne's fellow vagabond, is an artist with pencil and brush, and his drawings match the occasional poems in delicacy and truth. And for the poems themselves, it is to be said that they are not "literary" but real,—voicing the sentiment, the romance, and the fervor of all votaries of the ideal, whose prayer is:

"Bathe me in lustral dawns, and the morning star and the dew,

Make pure my heart as a bird and innocent as a flower.

Make sweet my thoughts as the meadow-mint — O make me all anew

And in the strength of beech and oak gird up my will with power."

MAY ESTELLE COOK.

VARIETY IN CURRENT DRAMA.*

Not within the memory of living man have acting dramas which yet make the literary appeal been published so freely as at the present time. The group here considered—only a part of the season's promise,—is proof of the statement, and significant of the fast-growing importance of the literary drama in all the lands where letters are cultivated. If the movement increases proportionately in the next few years, fiction, that modern tyrant among literary forms, will have to look to its laurels.

M. Maeterlinck has done remarkable things with the play form. He has shown the value of indirection through an imaginative appeal which has subtilized psychology, and he has far surpassed Ibsen in the use of the subjective method. Only onee, in "Monna Vanna," has he produced an acting drama in the traditional sense; although "Sister Beatrice," more objective in motive, has considerable dramatic power, beautiful as it is pictorially and in con-

*MARY MAGDRIENE. A Play in Three Acts. By Maurice Maeterlinek. Translated by Alexander Tiexeira de Mattos. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

Monitum. Three One-Act Plays. By Hermann Sudermann. Translated by Archibald Alexander. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

THE NIGGER. An American Play in Three Acts. By Edward Sheldon. New York: The Macmillan Co.

THE TRAGEDY OF NAN, and Other Plays. By John Masefield. New York: Mitchell Kennerley.

Anathema. A Tragedy in Seven Scenes. By Leonid Andreyev. Translated by Herman Bernstein. New York: The Magmillan Co.

JUSTICE. A Tragedy in Four Acts. By John Galsworthy. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. ception. "The Blue Bird," charming as spectacle and literature, is not a play in the strict sense. "Mary Magdelene," his new drama, seems somewhat disappointing, because it lacks objective dramatic power, while the historical demands seem to clip the author's genius and forbid a success of "The Intruder" type. The main situation, to be sure, with the Roman soldier promising Mary to spare the Christ if she will give herself to the soldier, is of obvious dramatic value; but there is a lack in the handling: it fails to thrill. There is a certain pictorial quality, too, in the scenes, - notably that in the house of Joseph of Arimathæa, and in the effect of the mob in the garden of Silanus. with the Saviour invisible yet dominating the scene. It may well be that these skilful groupings and plastic manipulations would lend the play fascination when witnessed. But on the whole, the material appears to be handled rather tamely, and it is doubtful if this drama can ever stand with the author's best; although its good taste in the presence of a delicate theme, and its spiritual elevation, can be heartily recognized.

After reading the three one-act pieces of Herr Sudermann grouped under the sombre title "Morituri," one instinctively asks what would be their fate if the author were not famous. They possess little or no dramatic quality, and whatever of literary charm is theirs is successfully eliminated by the translator, whose English is indifferent or worse than indifferent. To allow Herr Sudermann to be Englished by one with so little feeling for idiom, to whom the distinction even between "shall" and "will," for example, does not exist, is a pity. The first play, the historical sketch called "Teja," is the best of the trilogy, but in no way remarkable; "Fritzchen" is slight and ineffective; and as for the final piece, "The Eternal Masculine" (a clever title that promises well), after two readings I am inclined to give it up, - either the translation has ruined it, or it is far below the author's standard and dangerously near nonsense. Herr Sudermann's earlier playgroup, "Rosen," while no more than minor work, and seamier in themes than the present set, was very much superior as drama. "Magda" and "The Joy of Living" truly seem far away in reading these later specimens of the same author's play-making.

Whatever the faults of Mr. Edward Sheldon's "The Nigger," nobody can read or see it without recognizing that it is genuine drama, in contradistinction from the drama that is "literary." And one relishes the vigor of this young-

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est of aspirants, after the languid efforts of mature experts. When I saw the play at the New Theatre last winter, it was for me a vigorous and skilful piece, certainly with melodramatic touches, but handling a perilous theme in a way to make it inoffensive, while evoking from it a very strong central situation: the love of a Southern man supposedly white for a Southern girl, and the question of what she will do on discovering that he has negro blood in his veins. And now, reading the play, I feel that it has good workmanship, the artist's able control of his material; it is a piece of literature, which perhaps gets a bit didactic in the last act, but in general the story is allowed to speak for itself, and the situations are there and made much of. Moreover, it has the great merit of being about something, and that something worth while; the drama has a big idea. In view of the author's youth, this play and his preceding "Salvation Nell" are immensely promising for Mr. Sheldon's future, and he will hereafter be looked to as one of the torchbearers. He is very much sur le mouvement.

The advanced realism of the day - the realism that has produced a Wedekind in Germany - is well exemplified in Mr. John Masefield's "The Tragedy of Nan, and Other Plays." There is something terrible in finding the British rustic types, here studied, so revolting in their characteristics. This remark applies less aptly, perhaps, to the title-piece than to the two connected one-act pieces that follow, which, for straight, sullen horror have rarely been equalled in English. "Nan," a study of a girl whose lover leaves her, whereupon she kills him, is a skilful and forcible bit of dramatic work, which ought to act well. But judging Mr. Masefield by these examples, I should say that at present he has a chip on his shoulder for his dramatic theory: an attitude, whether for life or literature, not without danger to one assuming it.

The Russian genius, large, sombre, impressive, is not dramatic at all in the sense that the French genius is: I mean, in the feeling for form, development, and climax. There never was a more undramatic play than Gorki's terrible "Nachtasyl," and you have the same experience with the dramas of Ostrovsky and Tolstoy. In fact, the Slav's desire to come to a grapple with life is, in a sense, a menace to his art. One realizes all this afresh when in contact with Leonid Andreyev's strange, slowmoving, awful, yet unquestionably gripping drama "Anathema." It is unthinkable as a

playing piece. That tremendous prologue where the damned creature of earth jeers at the silent guardian of the heavens could not be visualized; it is an effect for the imagination. Nor,one would guess,- could much that follows be properly shown: the old Jew, David Leizer, is given a large fortune by Anathema, the Mephisto of the story; he dispenses it all in charity, the world turns and rends him, and Anathema, whose desire is to prove man bad and God cruel, triumphs over David's mangled corpse. It is a scene of frightful force and significance. But when, in the epilogue, this evil spirit revisits the Maker of things, he finds that Good is still conqueror, and in rage returns to do more impotent evil upon the earth. The careless and light-minded will pass this creation by as baffling or even as absurd; but it is a monumental allegory of good and evil, richly humanitarian, and of large and noble implications in its philosophy. One reads it in somewhat the same mood as that begotten by the Book of Job. And certainly it seems intensely Slavonic in character.

Standing head and shoulders above everything else in the present group as drama is Mr. Galsworthy's superb "Justice," at once a vital piece of life and literature, and a play of unquestionable fine technique and evident acting value. In skill, verity, and life values, it stands by itself, so far, among this author's plays. No wonder we hear that the English government has already been moved, through the influence of such a drama, to improve the existing prison regulations. They seem intolerable, thus presented. "Justice" illustrates the power of the stage when used aright, albeit the dramatist be the sternest and most uncompromising of realists. Indeed, those who are looking merely for the vacuously pleasant in play form are warned away from this drama; it is the most consistent and logical of tragedies. But it makes you think, it broadens your sympathy, it gives you the pleasure proper to a work of art. And therefore, for some of us at least, it is greatly worth while. The story concerns the fate of a young London clerk who, desiring money to help the woman he loves (the wife of a drunken brute who makes her life wretched) forges, is caught, and is committed to prison. On coming out, after serving his sentence, he feebly tries to be honest; he secures a position, but his record hounds him; the woman he loves is still his care, and his employers, kind men but taking the conventional view, tell him he must get rid of her. In a final scene, as poignantly true and pathetic as modern drama can show, we see the poor,

weak fellow caught again, and taking his own life; while Ruth, out of love for whom his sin has been committed, stands dazed with grief beside him. It is impossible to read this moving social document, dramatically so masterly that one tingles with its cumulative power, without realizing, perhaps as never before, the spirit of good in things deemed evil; and without registering a vow to be more charitable in the Although the drama arraigns the present reformatory procedure, it has a larger meaning too, I think; it suggests the awful complexity of human society, the mystery of failure, the apparent injustice inherent in a world so often at sixes and sevens. Yet is the tone not bitter; Mr. Galsworthy is above all an artist: he presents the facts as he sees them, he lets the facts be special pleaders for him. It is devoutly to be hoped that a play so sterling, so representative of the best in the modern realistic school, may soon be seen in this country.

RICHARD BURTON.

HOLIDAY PUBLICATIONS. II.

That discriminating student of French cathedrals, Miss Elise Whitlock Rose, gives in her two-volume work on "Cathedrals and Cloisters of the Isle de France" (Putnam) a fitting sequel or companion to her earlier books on the cathedrals and cloisters of southern and midland France. As in those works, too, she has been ably seconded by Miss Vida Hunt Francis in the illustration of her chapters with numerous and excellent photographs. The grouping of the matter is not geographical, but by architectural periods,—early Gothic, mature Gothic, flamboyant, and pseudo-classic. The selection of material from so rich a field has been a perplexing question, but the two ample volumes contain enough to do fair justice to the subject. Naturally the authors were tempted to overstep the limits indicated by the book's title, and no one will quarrel with them for occasionally yielding to the temptation. In general, the present work seems to do for northern France what its predecessors accomplished for central and southern France. The plates are both full-page and of smaller size, giving well both general effects and minute details.

Following up his studies of the Borneo Head-Hunters with similar researches among the natives of another tropical island in the same quarter of the globe, Dr. William Henry Furness, 3rd, has written a substantial volume on "The Island of Stone Money: Usp of the Carolines" (Lippincott). The medium of exchange which gives its name to the book consists of "large, solid, thick, stone wheels, ranging in diameter from a foot to twelve eet, having in the centre a hole varying in size with

the diameter of the stone, wherein a pole may be inserted sufficiently large and strong to bear the weight and facilitate transportation." The origin and use of this cumbrous currency form the subject of one of the most entertaining chapters in this delightfully written book. Religion, burial rites, native houses, costumes and adornments, Uap friendships, tattooing, dance and posture songs, and other things curious and novel, together with a treatise on Uap grammar and a seventy-four-page vocabulary of the language, fill up the rest of the volume. Thirty-one pictures, from photographs taken by the author, serve to make more real the strange scenes described. To the reader craving something new in the department of travel, "The Island of Stone Money" can be cordially recommended.

The terrible story of the great earthquake in Sicily and Calabria is told by an eye-witness of its disastrous effects and an active worker for the relief of its victims, in an attractive volume entitled "Sicily in Shadow and in Sun" (Little, Brown, & Co.) by that always delightful chronicler of things Italian, Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott. As Secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the American Relief Committee, Mrs. Elliott had the best of opportunities to study the relief work from first to last; and Mr. Elliott, who was with her, made drawings and took photographs of the memorable scenes, whereby the book is very greatly enriched. As usual with her, the author has made her book invitingly conversational and first-personal in its tone. Even the horrors of the earthquake receive a welcome softening from the charm of the manner in which they are related. But there are other things to claim one's attention besides the sufferings of the stricken district. Chapters on Palermo, Taormina, Syracuse, and on the building of the new Messina, with passing glimpses of famous visitors to the relief camp, diversify and enliven the narrative. The book, like its companion volumes from the same pen, is printed in the clearest of type and attractively bound, while in wealth and variety of illustrations it probably

Conspicuously excellent by reason of its halfhundred photogravure plates, printed in soft and pleasing tints, is Mr. Joel Cook's handsome twovolume work on "The Mediterranean and its Borderlands" (Winston). The method of treatment is descriptive and historical, the western shores and islands of the Mediterranean being taken up first, and the older lands of the Levant reserved for the latter part of the work. The recent large increase of travel, especially in the winter, to the sunny shores of the greatest of inland seas makes timely and useful this attractive guide-book, which is of course indexed and otherwise arranged to facilitate reference. Among subjects of modern interest in these pages so largely devoted to old-world topics, occurs a description of the great Assouan Dam, which began its beneficent work of irrigation only a few years ago. A good map of the regions deie

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scribed would not have come amiss, but none is to be found in the book. Ornate gilt binding, outside cloth wrappers, and a box of the same material, contribute to the beauty and durability of the volumes.

A volume compactly printed and full of information acceptable to the tourist, as also to the stay-athome reader, comes from the Macmillan Co. in Mr. Edward Hutton's "Siena and Southern Tuscany." Having already written a book on "The Cities of Umbria," the author is sufficiently familiar with and sufficiently in love with this section of Italy to write enthusiastically and with much firsthand information. Rather whimsically, however. he insists on the superiority of the old mediæval highway, the Via Francigena, as the one proper route to follow in journeying through Southern Tuscany, partly because it was the way of the Franks into Italy and the road our ancestors followed in visiting Rome. The exact route signifies little, so one gets a view of all that is worth seeing; and much of this is embraced in Mr. Hutton's book, which is made additionally attractive by the twentyeight illustrations it contains, sixteen of them being beautiful colored views executed by Mr. C. F. M. Ward. After Siena, the reader is conducted to Asciano, Rapoland, Serre, Lucignano, Sinalunga, Montepulciano, Arezzo, and many other places of interest.

Poetry and charm would not be looked for by many in the mud of the Missouri River. Nevertheless Mr. John G. Neihardt, the Nebraska poet, has found inspiration in that turbid flood of waters for his volume of romance from real life, "The River and I" (Putnam). From Benton, in Montana, at the head of Missouri River navigation, to Sioux City in Iowa he and two companions made their leisurely way by row-boat, meeting with divers adventures and enjoying every mile of the journey, so far as head winds and other unavoidable adverse conditions would allow. On reaching his destination the author confesses that he has never felt at home in a town. "Towns, after all, are machines to facilitate getting psychically lost," he declares. Asked at the outset what he expected to find on his journey, the poet-philosopher replied briefly: "Some more of myself." Fifty illustrations from photographs that appear to have been taken on the way appropriately accompany the reading matter. The book is one to give the conventionalized city-dweller a wholesome jolt.

Others beside the doughty Colonel have hunted big game in Africa, and have written about it, too. Among these author-huntsmen Mr. John T. Mc-Cutcheon deserves commendatory notice, the more so that he is not only a lion-killer and an agreeable writer, but also able to illustrate with his pencil the thrilling adventures chronicled by his pen, being indeed well known as cartoonist of the Chicago "Tribune." "In Africa: Hunting Adventures in the Big Game Country" (Bobbs-Merrill) is a book about as large as Mr. Roosevelt's similar volume, and

describes events that took place at about the same time as those that form the subject of "African Game Trails." In fact, the two American hunters met, and not the least interesting portion of Mr. McCutcheon's book is that relating the interchange of courtesies and stories between them. It was an expedition organized by Mr. Akeley, the famous African hunter, that Mr. McCutcheon joined, and its experience was an eventful one. Numerous drawings, frequently humorous, are sprinkled through the book, which is further illustrated from many photographs.

No hasty impressions are recorded in Miss Irene A. Wright's "Cuba" (Macmillan), but rather the matured opinions and convictions of a ten years' residence (somewhat interrupted) on the island, "the last four of which have been spent largely in travelling hither and you through its provinces, on work entailed first by connections with local newspapers, next by an appointment as special agent of the Cuban department of agriculture, and, finally, by the business of editing a monthly magazine which describes the island principally from agricul-These words tural and industrial points of view." indicate fairly well the author's point of view in the present work, although her book is rich in miscellaneous information and incidents of personal experience. In a chapter entitled "'Cuba Libre' - a Farce," as occasionally elsewhere in the volume, she does not hesitate to draw aside the veil covering the sordidness and selfishness of many of the motives actuating our late intercession and our inglorious war with Spain. Half-tone plates are lavishly used in illustrating the book, which runs to the length of five hundred pages.

In a series of nineteen day-excursions about Londen, Miss Aida Rodman de Milt (or De Milt, whichever she prefers) saw so much that is worth seeing, and that the visitor to London often omits, that she has prepared an inviting volume, "Ways and Days out of London" (Baker & Taylor Co.), fully illustrated with the aid of a camera, describing and depicting the views, the buildings, the incidents, and the people that made those nineteen days so memorable to her and to her tourist companions, Sonia and Diana. Among the places thus easily and quickly accessible from London are Hampton Court, Ascot, Rochester, Richmond, Ely, Maidenhead, Epping Forest, Dulwich, St. Albans, Canterbury, and Cambridge. But Oxford we do not find on her list, rather strangely. The light and breezy style in which the author has endeavored to present these holiday-makings is indicated by the remark of an aged guide at Harbledown: "I like to show the church to American ladies. They always say something to make you laugh; and we might as well laugh whenever we can, you know." The sixty-six pictures in the book greatly stimulate the interest.

In an unfrequented spot in the Bernese Alps, in a mountain châlet which she christens "Châlet Edelweiss," about a mile and a half from the Grindelwald station on the road to the Upper Glacier, Mrs. Edith Elmer Wood and her familyminus its head, who is a naval officer and had been ordered to the Philippines - passed a recent summer of Arcadian peace and happiness and simplicity; and she now chronicles the blissful experience in engaging fashion, with plentiful illustrations of Swiss scenery, in a book entitled "An Oberland Châlet," published by Wessels & Bissell Co. Walking excursions and other innocent and healthful recreations helped to occupy the time, and as the scenes and characters described are not those familiar to the tourist, the narrative successfully avoids "the Nth repetition of the Utterly Familiar." Mrs. Wood's style has the sparkle of wit and merriment and high spirits, and her book has a wholesome and tonic effect. Artistically bound and boxed, it is also a pleasure to the eye.

The comparatively unknown interior of Sicily, with its survivals of ancient customs and superstitions, is entertainingly treated in Miss Louise Caico's "Sicilian Ways and Days" (Appleton). In the province of Caltanissetta, the only Sicilian province with no sea-coast, the author was long a sojourner, mingling familiarly with the natives and snap-shotting them and the scenes amid which they live. From these numerous photographs, taken with a small camera, and in no expectation of ever publishing any of them, a large number have been selected for the illustration of the photographer's book, being arranged two on a page and showing an unexpected clearness of detail. Even the surfeited reader of travels will find novelty and piquancy in Miss Caico's pages. In gaining the confidence and friendship of the inland Sicilians, who are by nature secretive and disposed to suspect the visiting stranger, she has been fortunate, and her readers will profit by her ability to draw the curtain from before much that usually remains hidden to the conventional

Dr. Charles W. Townsend's "A Labrador Spring" (Estes) is a tale of ornithological travel and adventure along northern shores. The author is evidently a naturalist, but not of the closest type. He is a lover of the out-of-doors, and writes a pleasing narrative of the cruise of "La Belle Marguerite" from the Acadian village to the summer homes of the Montagnais Indians. The book is replete with observations on the peculiar flora, the birds and other denizens of these bleak shores. The author is also a student of human nature, and his accounts of his northern friends, both Indian and white, are entertaining. The book is beautifully and abundantly illustrated, and gives on the whole a very satisfactory glimpse into this little-known and inhospitable land.

A narrative of personal experience among the leaders of thought and action in Norway is to be found in Martha Buckingham Wood's "A Trip to the Land of the Midnight Sun" (Brandu's), a series of brief chapters devoted to a wide range of Norwegian topics. The writer's discourse is mainly of persons, interspersed with casual references to the

physiographic, climatic, and social conditions of this the most truly democratic nation of Europe. The intense and serious intellectual activity of this sturdy people is revealed in the author's converse with one and another. Their well-founded pride in their authors, musicians, and artists, and the large share which women take not only in the political but in the intellectual life of the people, is often revealed by the passing comment.

HOLIDAY ART BOOKS.

Two large, handsomely printed, and fully illustrated volumes are added to the "Classics of Art" series (Scribner). The pathetic story of that artistic genius who worked his way up from obscurity and poverty to the high level of Reynolds and Gainsborough in the patronage of fashionable London and in the judgment of connoisseurs is again told, and well told, in Mr. Arthur B. Chamberlain's "George Romney." His life is related in Part I.; "The Man and his Methods" is the heading to Part II.; and "His Art" is considered in Part III. More than seventy plates, including one of Romney as painted by himself, and including also, of course, a number of Lady Hamilton's portraits in various characters, are given as examples of the artist's style. Bibliography, appended details, and copious index are duly provided, and the whole work, for which the public appetite has been whetted by Mrs. Ward's "Fenwick's Career," should meet with a cordial reception.—In Mr. A. J. Finberg's "Turner's Sketches and Drawings" is presented a wellsystematized and, in general, a chronological study of Turner's art as illustrated by those twenty thousand and more preliminary sketches with which his death enriched the National Gallery. The collection Mr. Finberg has found to be "of very great psychological interest. It shows clearly upon what basis of immediately presentative elements the airy splendour of Turner's richly imaginative art was built: and amongst the twenty odd thousand sheets of drawings in all stages of elaboration, the embryonic forms of most of the painter's masterpieces can be easily traced." One hundred plates, including a colored frontispiece, show these initial conceptions of the artist in various stages of completion. Of psychologic and also of more general human interest to the average reader, the book is sure to appeal strongly to the artist and the art-lover.

"French Portrait Engraving of the XVIIth and XVIIIth Centuries" (Bell-Macmillan) is a detailed and more or less technical account of that branch of art, from Claude Mellan of the early seventeenth to Janinet and others of the late eighteenth century, with some notice of Mellan's predecessors and a preliminary chapter on the general characteristics of the French school. The author, Mr. T. H. Thomas, says of this school that it "had no independent existence before 1625, and it was brought to an end by the Revolution; since then the portraits engraved in France have either been academic imitations of the old work, or else in a wholly differ-

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ent manner." Thirty-nine excellent reproductions of noteworthy engravings illustrate and explain the writer's criticisms and comments, which are grouped under three main divisions,—"The Seventeenth Century," "The Louis XV. Period," and "The Louis XVI. Period." The book closes with a commendably full list of French portrait engravers of the two centuries under discussion, the list including the chief foreign engravers who adopted the French method and style. Mr. Thomas has sought to fill a gap in art history, and it is safe to say that no such careful and critical and reasonably exhaustive treatment of the subject has before appeared.

Napoleonic literature, vast though it is, has hitherto contained no work treating fully that blithesome branch of art called caricature as applied to the world-familiar form and features of the Little Corporal. This lack is now abundantly supplied by the two ample volumes of Mr. A. M. Broadley's "Napoleon in Caricature" (Lane), to which Mr. J. Holland Rose contributes an adequate "Introductory Essay on Pictorial Satire as a Factor in Napoleonic History." Both men have already written learnedly and at length about Napoleon, and they enter upon their present task well equipped. The first volume is devoted to English caricature of Britain's hated foe, while the second takes up French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Dutch, Swiss, and Scandinavian caricature. American caricature of Napoleon seems not to have claimed the author's attention. Nearly two hundred and fifty illustrations, of which twenty-four are colored, present the more interesting specimens of Napoleonic caricature and the portraits of some of the more eminent caricaturists. Mr. Broadley has done his work well, and, we should say, has done it for all time.

Miss Elisabeth McClellan, whose long superintendence, at the Philadelphia Library, of that department of literature which treats of the history of costume has made her a trustworthy authority on the subject, supplements her "Historic Dress in America, 1607-1800" with a companion volume, "Historic Dress in America, 1800-1870," handsomely produced by Messrs. George W. Jacobs & Co. As is said in the prefatory note to the latter work, "many books have been written on the houses, the furniture, and the decorations of the century we have so lately seen pass into history, but of the costumes chosen and worn by our immediate ancestors very little has been recorded in print." Naturally it is the dress of women that occupies by far the larger portion of Miss McClellan's book. The quarto size of its pages affords space for grouping the costumes of a period in a striking and extremely interesting manner. From old-time wearing apparel, from nineteenth-century photographs and prints, from paintings, and from other trustworthy sources the large number of illustrations have been drawn. There are some in pen-and-ink and some in half-tone, Miss Sophie B. Steel and Mr. Cecil W. Trout being the artists. The descriptive matter shows careful study of a large number of authorities, a list of which and an index and a glossary close the book.

Mr. Charles H. Caffin, who writes on art in a way so intelligible and so interesting even to those who are neither artists nor very highly educated in art history and criticism, has issued another of his popular manuals on painting. This time it is "The Story of Spanish Painting" (Century Co.) that he has chosen to tell, in much the same manner as his "Story of Dutch Painting." A preliminary chapter on "The Story of the Nation" presents the physical environment of Spanish art, and is followed by useful chapters on the characteristics of that art and a panoramic view of its development to the opening of the nineteenth century. The succeeding chapters are devoted to a few of Spain's greatest painters, from "El Greco" in the sixteenth century to Goya, who died in 1828. A "Postscript" pays brief attention to Fortuny, Pradilla, Zuloaga, and a few others of our own time. Thirty-three full-page plates convey such hints of the merits of the masters discussed as can be given in the black-and-white of half-tone reproductions.

HOLIDAY BIOGRAPHIES AND MEMOIRS.

A considerable number of entertaining episodes from real life are brought together in a large and handsome volume entitled "The Rose Goddess, and Other Sketches of Mystery and Romance" (Longmans), enriched with a profusion of portraits and other illustrations. Lady Constance Russell, experienced narrator of such tales of romance (see her "Three Generations of Fascinating Women" and her "Swallowfield and its Owners"), is the author of the book. Each of its component sketches, she says, introduces one or more characters nearly or remotely connected with her family, so that, although several of them are old stories retold, she has been able to add, from private sources, some new and intimate details. These sources she seldom distracts the reader by naming. Never allowing a good story to be spoiled in the telling, she carries her willing listeners swiftly and agreeably along, from the romance of the "Rose Goddess" (Kitty Kirkpatrick, Carlyle's supposed first love, concerning whose history in more detail the student should consult Mr. Raymond C. Archibald's book of a year ago) through the fortunes of Louise de Kéroualle and some of her descendants, the marriage of Lady Elizabeth Keppel to Lord Tavistock, and what came of it, the strange disappearance of Benjamin Bathurst, of the British diplomatic service, the history of Sarah, Marchioness of Exeter, and other diverting narratives. Appended matter, including notes and a genealogical chart giving Louise de Kéroualle's pedigree, and an index close the book. Of the numerous pictures, twentyeight are collotype plates, and the remaining twentytwo half-tone prints.

From a new and rather surprising point of view Mr. W. R. H. Trowbridge contemplates the character and deeds of that mighty magician, Count Cagliostro, in his book entitled "Cagliostro: The Splendour and Misery of a Master of Magic" (Dutton). Entering upon his work with never a doubt that this famous wonder-worker was the archimpostor he is generally supposed to have been, Mr. Trowbridge was "astonished to find how little foundation there was in point of fact for the popular conception." Accordingly his conscientious study of the man is no parrot-like repetition of the familiar tale of his alleged impostures; but whether he succeeds in his attempt "to correct and revise . . . a false judment of history," we will not, off-hand, undertake to say. The reader will enjoy determining for himself what degree of success has been gained in this rather formidable, if not hopeless, enterprise. At any rate, the book is unique among the many accounts that have been written of the famous charlatan, as he will still continue to be called. Illustrations, chiefly portraits, are abundantly supplied to heighten the attraction of this undeniably attractive book.

Women's looks were Byron's books, and folly was all they taught him. That, in brief, is the lesson of Mr. Francis Gribble's extended work of nearly four hundred pages on "The Love Affairs of Lord Byron" (Scribner). The poet's whole life, observes the author, "was deflected from its course and thrown out of gear: first, by his un-happy passion for Mary Chaworth; secondly, by the way in which women of all ranks, flattering his vanity for the gratification of their own, importuned him with the offer of their hearts." But in regarding Byron's love affairs as "the principal incidents of his life, and almost the only ones," Mr. Gribble goes a little too far. Byron had his friendships, as well as his loves, he had his literary projects and ambitions, and also his literary squabbles, and he had a most real and active interest in Greek independence. Still, a life of Byron with chief reference to his affairs of the heart is the kind of biography to appeal successfully to the public, and it is the sort of work Mr. Gribble has before now engaged in to the satisfaction of his readers. The present volume is provided with portraits, and is printed in large, clear type, with division into short and inviting chapters.

Biography somewhat after the fashion of Miss Muhlbach is presented in Miss Marie Hay's generous volume entitled "The Winter Queen: Being the Unhappy History of Elizabeth Stuart, Electress Palatine, Queen of Bohemia" (Houghton). Both title-page and preface frankly proclaim the book to be a romance; but as the author prepared herself by special study and a special journey to Prague before putting pen to paper, and as her hand is by no means new to this sort of writing, her work merits respectful attention. Her heroine, the consort of Frederick V. who reigned in Bohemia just one winter (1619–20), is truly a romantic character as portrayed in Miss Hay's pages. The Stuart charm has taken possession of the author, and the

reader is exposed to the risk of falling a victim to the same fascination. The moderate length of the chapters, the sufficiency of brisk conversation, the rapid succession of events, and the interspersed portraits of the chief characters, certainly give the book an inviting appearance.

Lady Dorothy Nevill has followed up her chatty "Reminiscences," of four years ago, with another volume of like anecdotal and retrospective character. "Under Five Reigns" (Lane), completed last summer and edited by her son, was prompted by the fact that, as the writer says, she has come across further notes and letters connected with the social life of the Victorian and Edwardian eras, a number of which it seemed to her might not prove unacceptable to her friendly readers. Born in the reign of "the first gentleman of Europe," Lady Dorothy has witnessed the accession of four succeeding monarchs to the throne of England. Given a good memory and a ready pen, a life of that length, lived in society, affords material for much enlivening reminiscence; and the author has not been blind to her opportunity. The pictures in the book include, beside numerous portraits, three pages of amusing sketches from the pen of Richard Doyle, one of whose letters in fascimile is also given. The book is a treasury of memories of auld lang syne.

Mr. Frank Hamel, whose studies and previous writings qualify him to speak understandingly on the subject, has prepared a volume on "The Dauphines of France" (Pott). "In gathering into one volume," he says in his preface, "the biographies of fifteen princesses, some familiar, others as yet very little known to English readers, it has been obviously impossible to give an exhaustive history of each, but I have aimed at producing in every case a finished study of life and character." From Jeanne de Bourbon in the fourteenth century to Marie-Thérèse in the nineteenth, this portraitgallery of women who had fame thrust upon them exhibits a succession of characters that compel one's interest if only by reason of the scenes and events amidst which they lived. Nor are fascinating personalities lacking among them, — as, for instance, Mary Stuart, Marie-Adélaide de Savoie, and Marie-Antoinette. Of course the book is not deficient in portraits of these dauphines, nor is it without its full and useful index. It also contains, in its opening pages, what the author believes to be "the first account in English of the position of the dauphine at the French court and of the ceremonial which surrounded those in the direct line of succession to the throne of France."

A history of fops and foppery has been zealously undertaken and elaborately executed by Miss Clare Jerrold in a good-sized octavo volume entitled "The Beaux and the Dandies" (Lane). James Hay, Earl of Carlisle, is the first of a long succession of magnificent leaders of fashion whom the author makes to strut and smile and ogle for our benefit, and Count d'Orsay, more than two centuries later, is the last of this brave company to be met with in

her amusing pages. Beau Nash of course figures prominently in those pages. Chesterfield, George Selwyn, Charles James Fox, King George the Fourth, and the Duke of Wellington appear also among those more or less addicted to foppery. Seventeen well-chosen pictures help the reader to a better acquaintance with all these delectible dandies. An index concludes the book, but there is neither annotation nor bibliography to temper with too great seriousness the gaiety of its sprightly chapters.

HOLIDAY EDITIONS OF STANDARD LITERATURE.

In no more inviting and beautiful form has Miss Mitford's "Our Village" ever appeared than in the large octavo, clearly-printed, wide-margined, appropriately and profusely illustrated edition now issued by the Macmillan Company, with an extended Introduction by Mrs. Anne Thackeray Ritchie. "For people who are beginning to remember, rather than looking forward any more," she says, "there certainly exists no more delightful reading than the memoirs and stories of heroes and heroines, many of whom we ourselves may have seen, and to whom we may have spoken." If not Miss Mitford's actual characters, we have all seen persons answering well some of her graphic descriptions. No sketches in all English literature are more wholesomely engaging, in their quiet way, than Miss Mitford's. sixteen colored plates provided by Mr. Alfred Rawlings for this edition breathe the very air of "Our Village"; but not less pleasing, and even more gracefully delicate and beautiful, are the one hundred line drawings executed by Mr. Hugh

No play of Shakespeare's bears repeated rereading better than "Hamlet," and even though one may know it almost by heart it will be most agreeable to read the familiar drama once more in the sumptuous new edition illustrated by Mr. W. G. Simonds and provided with a detailed synopsis or paraphrase of the play and an account of its origin by Sir Arthur T. Quiller-Couch. The latter writer takes occasion to express his disbelief in Hamlet's madness. The text of the Oxford edition has been followed, and notes are conspicuously absent. Nothing but the frequent highly-colored pictures will distract the reader's attention, and these wellconceived and not too realistic illustrations will hardly be complained of as an unwelcome distraction. They are thirty in number, loosely mounted on heavy inserts. The volume in its style and size is suited to the table, not to the unsupported hand. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

"The History of a Conscript of 1813," which many readers will remember, with affection or the reverse, as having been imposed upon them at school as compulsory French reading, appears in an excellently printed and generously illustrated edition (Macmillan). Text illustrations are interspersed with colored drawings, not so artistically excellent as to distract the reader's attention from the story; and of the translation we are told in a prefatory

note that it "is based on that issued by Mr. John Camden Hotten, about 1871," but that it has been compared with "an early French edition, and thus numerous verbal errors and inaccuracies have been corrected." The same note gives a brief sketch of the joint authors of the story, Emile Erckmann and Alexandre Chatrian. As a handy, clearly printed, and inexpensive edition of this famous historical romance, the book merits hearty commendation.

Mr. Arthur Rackham finds inspiration for his annual holiday volume in Wagner's "Nibelung's Ring." The cycle is to be completed in two volumes, the one now ready containing "The Rhinegold and the Valkyrie," the text newly trans-lated into English by Miss Margaret Armour. The new book is similar in size and make-up to Mr. Rackham's other notable volumes; the illustrations are as usual printed in colors and separately mounted on tinted sheets. Mr. Rackham touches nothing that he does not adorn, and his "Ring" pictures are full of imagination, quaintly humorous, mystical, suggesting in sweep of line the colossal grandeur of the theme. In comparison with his earlier work, however, they lack a certain spontaneity and a delicacy of fancy that has been one of the artist's chief charms; the freshness of genuine inspiration is not upon many of them. (Doubleday, Page & Co.)

A serviceable, well-illustrated, sufficiently-annotated, and inexpensive edition of Goldsmith's poems, with a biographical and critical introduction by Mr. Horatio Sheafe Krans, is published by the Messrs. Putnam. Nine pictures in photogravure, from original designs by Mr. Frederick Simpson Coburn, help to interpret the poet, several of them being views executed at Lissoy, the "sweet Auburn" of "The Deserted Village." The biographical introduction, filling seventy-six pages, gives in agreeable and handy form the main facts concerning Goldsmith's life and writings, with eulogistic comment on the poems. Dr. Krans is in love with his theme, and it will not be his fault if the reader fails to conceive a new affection for this most amiable of British poets.

The immortal love-story of "Aucassin and Nicolette," that perpetual challenge to the dexterous translator, has tempted Mr. Eugene Mason to essay another version. A comparison with the original shows his rendering to be free, but in admirable harmony with the spirit of the romance, and his paraphrases of the metrical portions to be in the metre of the French, and, in every case, nearly or exactly of the same length as the original. The typography and decoration of the book, including six fanciful colored illustrations by Mr. Maxwell Armfield, are tasteful. A more agreeable English dress to this old French classic could not reasonably be desired. (E. P. Dutton & Co.)

be desired. (E. P. Dutton & Co.)

A limited edition of Gray's "Elegy," hand lettered, printed on Italian hand-made paper, sewed by hand with silk, and with a hand-colored frontispiece and initial letter, is issued by Mr. F. J. Trezise of Chicago. A decorative border encloses each page

of text, and the printing is on one side only of the paper, which is folded, however, so as to give the book no unusual appearance on opening it. The total effect is distinctly artistic and pleasing. Two hundred copies have been printed.

HOLIDAY FICTION.

Rural scenes and strongly marked rural characters form the staple of Mr. Frank Waller Allen's "The Golden Road" (Wessels & Bissell Co.) which is rendered especially attractive to the eye by Mr. George Hood's tinted decorations and excellent illustrations. "Oldmeadow," a Kentucky village on the Ohio, is the scene of the story, and Jean François, "the Happy Pedler," and poet as well as pedler and umbrella-mender, is one of the chief dramatis personæ. Others are old Dr. Felix Longstreet, "always smelling delightfully of a mixture of strong tobacco smoke and carbolic acid," Monsieur l'Abbé Jacques Picot, Nance Gwyn, and Charles Reubelt King, the narrator. As a quiet bit of character-study and deft character-drawing the book is very pleasing, and does credit to Mr. Allen.

As usual, a number of short stories have this year been published in form suitable to the gift season. Mrs. Margaret Deland's "The Way to Peace" (Harper) is a sweet but over-tragic tale of a Shaker settlement. Illustrations by Mrs. Alice Barber Stephens and decorative page borders lend it a holiday air .- "A Christmas Mystery: The Story of Three Wise Men" (Lane), by Mr. William J. Locke, is a powerfully related episode in the life of three eminent Londoners. As a magazine story it attracted much attention; in a prettily decorated booklet it is sure to prove a popular gift. - Poetic, delicate, little sketches, often allegorical in form, are Mr. Emerson Hough's "The Singing Mouse Stories" (Bobbs-Merrill Co.). They suggest the subtle joys that lie behind the commonplaces of life, particularly the charm of childhood memories and of nature. The decorations are vague and shadowy, in keeping with the elusive character of the Singing Mouse.—"The Unlived Life of Little Mary Ellen" is the title of Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart's new Simkinsville story, which is prettily decorated in tint by Miss Ruth Clements. (Bobbs-Merrill Co). — In "Everybody's Lonesome" (Revell) Miss Clara Laughlin tells a "true fairy story" with a moral for all discontented people. There are illustrations by Mr. A. I. Keller.—"On Christmas Day in the Evening," by Miss Grace Richmond, is a companion volume to the same author's "On Christmas Day in the Morning." There are illustrations in color, and borders of holly leaves. (Doubleday Page & Co) .- "A Chariot of Fire," by Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, is a tale of true neighborliness between rich and poor folk; and the rich are left debtors to the poor. (Harper & Bros.). -One of the most popular chapters in that popular volume, "Aunt Jane of Kentucky," was "Sally Ann's Experience," which is now published by itself, with a gay cover, frontispiece, and borders in color,

and an introduction by Mrs. Hall, telling why she wrote the story. (Little, Brown & Co.).—An absurd bit of fooling by the late "O. Henry" is published in an illustrated booklet by Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co. Its title, "Let Me Feel Your Pulse: Adventures in Neurasthenia," sufficiently suggests its theme.

MISCELLANEOUS HOLIDAY BOOKS.

We can hardly have too many books about Hawthorne. To the large number already existing Miss Helen Archibald Clarke adds one on "Hawthorne's Country" (Baker & Taylor Co.), similar in character to her "Longfellow's Country," "Browning's England," and "Browning's Italy," of previous seasons. Her purpose in the present volume is "to show more explicitly than has heretofore been shown the relation between his [Hawthorne's life experiences and his work, and to illustrate as completely as possible in the space of one volume the general trend of his genius and the culmination of its various phases." Accordingly the different sections of New England that he became familiar with, and also something of the England and the Italy of his European days, are successively treated, with a natural emphasis on the relation between his environment and the products of his Whether or not that environment was of so great moment to one of Hawthorne's introverted nature, may remain an open question; but the story of his successive "life experiences" is of perennial interest, and the publishers have given of their best, in clear type, handsome binding, and numerous illustrations, (the latter including many views of old buildings from early prints), to make Miss Clarke's well-written book appeal successfully to a discriminating taste.

Originality in conception and treatment is to be found in Mrs. Emily James Putnam's thoughtful, well-written, and sufficiently learned work on "The Lady: Studies of Certain Significant Phases of her History" (Sturgis & Walton Company). The book's purpose is "to suggest in outline the theories that various typical societies have entertained of the lady; to note the changing ideals that she has from time to time proposed to herself; to show in some measure what her daily life has been like, what sort of education she has had, what sort of man she has preferred to marry; in short, what manner of terms she has contrived to make with the very special con-ditions of her existence." The eight chapters into which it is divided take up, successively, the Greek lady, the Roman lady, the lady Abbess, the lady of the castle, the lady of the Renaissance, the lady of the salon, the blue-stocking lady, and the lady of the slave states. Available sources for illustrating such a book as Mrs. Putnam's are not lacking, and they have been freely drawn upon. With its richly decorated cover and fair, large print, the volume is very inviting.

Mr. Warwick Goble, whose colored illustrations for Kingsley's "Water Babies" will be remembered

as a pleasant feature of last year's holiday season, now reappears as the illustrator of a large octavo volume entitled "The Green Willow, and Other Japanese Fairy Tales" (Macmillan). The stories, thirty-eight in number, which make up the text have been gathered by Miss Grace James from various sources. "Some have been selected from the Koji-ki, or Record of Ancient Matters, which contains the mythology of Japan. Many are told from memory, being relics of childish days, originally heard from the lips of a school-fellow or a nurse. Certain of them, again, form favorite subjects for representation upon the Japanese stage." Mr. Goble's forty delicately-colored illustrations are surprisingly successful in reproducing the native atmosphere of the tales, and altogether the volume is one of the most charming and unusual of the season's

The steam-ship, no less than the sailing vessel, is a thing of beauty and of power. The history of this marvellous product of many inventive brains is fully related in Mr. R. A. Fletcher's "Steam-Ships: The Story of their Development to the present Day" (Lippincott), uniform in style with Mr. E. Keble Chatterton's "Sailing Ships and their Story." Not only is the evolution of the modern ocean greyhound traced from the first rude constructions of Rumsey and Fitch and Stevens and Fulton, but the author even goes back to such vague mention of oxdriven or man-driven paddle-wheel craft as is to be found in early literature. One hundred and fifty illustrations are provided, including views of machinery and of vessels in process of building, and the descriptive matter will interest both the naval architect and the general reader. We look in vain among the pictures for the famous old stern-wheeler of the Mississippi River, and for the "Great Eastern." A model of the latter, however, is represented, and also an interesting contemporary caricature. Floating docks, the evolution of the battle steamship, the development of steam auxiliary, the turbine engine, and other related matters are adequately treated.

The life of the lowly, sympathetically depicted, has far more of wholesome human interest than many a biography of the high and mighty. Shepherd's Life: Impressions of the South Wiltshire Downs" (Dutton) has to do with the poor and obscure but on the whole contented and cheerful folk of pastoral England. Mr. W. H. Hudson is the author, and he has been ably seconded in his work by Mr. Bernard C. Gotch, the illustrator. One Caleb Bawcombe, South Wiltshire shepherd, is a prominent character in the rambling narrative, but there are others to divide the interest. Curious bits of natural-history lore from various sources enrich the chapters and prove the author to be intellectually acquisitive and also keenly observant. Among matters relating to sheep-culture we read with some surprise that sheep-bells in England are used chiefly if not solely because the shepherds, unprovided with the pastoral pipe of classic times,

crave music of some sort, and get it in the tinkling of many bells, twenty-five or thirty to a flock. Mr. Gotch's many admirable line drawings, and his colored frontispiece view of Old Sarum, display much skill and taste.

To those readers who find Gibbon's "Decline and Fall" too formidable to undertake, and even Signor Ferrero's far less ponderous works not sufficiently light, Mrs. Elisabeth W. Champney's "Romance of Imperial Rome" (Putnam) is well calculated to prove an acceptable presentation of some of the most interesting episodes in the history of the Eternal City. From the times of Augustus to the reign of Marcus Aurelius she conducts the reader through a succession of stirring scenes, making free use of anecdote and dialogue to enliven her pages, which are further diversified with numerous and excellent illustrations, partly in photogravure and partly in half-tone, reproducing both famous places and buildings of interest and also celebrated paintings having to do with Roman characters and events. The colored frontispiece, the ornamental binding, the large type and its open setting, the spacious margins, and, last but not least, the absence of index and notes, proclaim the book a source of enjoyment and diversion rather than a giver of historical information and useful instruction.

Mr. M. A. De Wolfe Howe's dignified and interesting volume on "Boston Common" (Riverside Press) will find a welcome far beyond the boundaries of that city. In four chapters he presents the memorable features and associations of the Common in the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The last, however, as being not yet in its 'teens, is dismissed with little ceremony and but a few remarks. Thirty-five excellent plates from sources more or less ancient adorn the book and greatly enhance its interest. Like the careful scholar that he is, Mr. Howe closes with a list of his "sources of information" and an index. The book, beside being well bound, is also boxed. The edition is limited to five hundred and fifty numbered

copies.

"Rumbo Rhymes, or The Great Combine" (Harper), by Mr. Alfred C. Calmour, and "rendered into pictures" by Mr. Walter Crane, teaches, in a set of rollicking jingles, the wrongfulness of eating, beating, over-working, and otherwise oppressing our brothers and sisters of the brute creation. The book may fall considerably short of making all its readers vegetarians, but it is sure to amuse them if they be young in years, or in heart, or in both. The numerous animal pictures, all in a profusion of color, are in Mr. Crane's well-known style, and most happily match the rhymes in whimsical and good-natured absurdity.

Marginal pictures in considerable variety, tinted and decorative in effect, as well as full-page colored illustrations, all from the practiced hand of Miss Sarah S. Stilwell, profusely adorn the new edition of Mr. Edward Sandford Martin's popular book, "The Luxury of Children, and Some Other Luxuries" (Harper). These talks on domestic matters—a subject on which we all feel qualified to express ourselves in agreement or disagreement with the author, especially if we chance to have no domestic life of our own as a disconcerting check to our abstract theories—are of universal appeal, and they are now presented in a form that leaves nothing to be desired.

Three successful books for the dweller in the open are reissued by the Outing Publishing Co. in uniform bindings of green limp leather and offered together in a neat cloth case as "The Robinson Crusoe Library." Mr. Horace Kephart's "Book of Camping and Woodcraft" and "Camp Cookery" and Dr. Charles Stuart Moody's "Backwoods Surgery and Medicine" are the three volumes comprising the set. Each is a practical and accredited manual, upon which the camper or woodsman may safely put reliance. A more acceptable gift for one who sojourns, either casually or habitually, out-of-doors will not be found among the season's publications.

An appropriate and beautiful gift book for Christmas has been prepared by Miss Eleanor Hammond Broadus in her "Book of the Christ Child" (Appleton), which presents a number of the more important legends concerning the infant Jesus, simply and interestingly told, alternating with poetical selections from various sources, and abundantly furnished with reproductions of famous paintings by the old masters. Both poems and pictures are in harmony with the book's purpose, which, the author explains, is "to present picturesque material which is comparatively unfamiliar in a Protestant country," and not "to give religious instruction." Old and young alike can find something to please them in the handsome volume.

From a new publishing concern, The Abbey Company of Chicago, comes a little group of choicelyprinted booklets. Whittier's "Snowbound" is an addition to the "Abbey Classics," a series of English poems artistically printed on Japan vellum, with rubricated initials and photogravure portrait. - A beautiful Christmas story is to be found in the late Dr. Frederic Dewhurst's "The Magi in the West and their Search for the Christ." It relates how the Wise Men met again, this time to search for the kingdom of Christ on earth, and how at last they found it in the power of love. - The third of the group is "A German Christmas Eve," translated from the German of that popular humorist, Heinrich Seidel. The story, which is taken from his masterpiece, "Leberecht Hühnchen," is a delightful picture of home life in Germany. The little book is printed in two colors, and daintily bound.

The San Francisco publishing house of Messrs.

Paul Elder & Co. maintains its enviable reputation as publishers of artistic and original holiday volumes. Their most attractive publication for this season is a limited edition of Mrs. Browning's "Sonnets from the Portuguese," printed in italic type on handmade paper, and tastefully bound in boards, with decorated title label. A photogravure portrait and

especially designed initial decorations comprise the decorative features. Mr. Arthur Guiterman contributes a preface and notes. — "The Book of Hospitalities" is an attractive guest book, with guest greetings in verse by Mr. Arthur Guiterman, who also contributes a "foreword" on "Old House Mottoes." Decorations in green on brown-toned Brittany paper and binding of brown boards with leather back are in the publishers' characteristic style .- "The Complete Cynic," being "Bunches of Wisdom Culled from the Calendars of Oliver Herford, Ethel Watts Mumford, and Addison Mizner," is a mirth-provoking collection of distorted proverbs with appropriate illustrations and decorations. "The College Freshman's Don't Book," by "G. F. E. (A. B.)," covers a multitude of college subjects from dress and dining to "things in general." Most of the advice is humorous and all of it is good. — "Patience and Her Garden," by Miss Ida Smith Decker, is "a whimsical parable for club-women, house-keepers," and other busy people. It is bound in paper, as is "Love and Friendship," a collection of epigrams by Miss Lillyan Shaffner .- The "Impressions Calendar" for 1911 is composed of fiftyfour sheets, each containing a motto beautifully decorated and illuminated.

First place among the small anthologies of the season belongs to Mr. Temple Scott's "The Christmas Treasury" (Baker & Taylor Co.). In outward form the volume is exactly uniform with the same compiler's collection entitled "In Praise of Gardens," published a few months ago; and is edited with equal good judgment in the choice of material. The decorative cover, tinted end-leaves, and inviting typography are all in the best of taste. - One of the most popular among year-books has been Mrs. Florence Hobart Perin's "The Optimist's Good-morning." To it she has now added a companion volume, "The Optimist's Good-night" (Little, Brown, & Co.), full of tonic thoughts for the days of the year. Each page contains a helpful quotation and a prayer.—
"A Manual of Spiritual Fortification" (Harper) is a compilation by Mrs. Louise Collier Willcox, of "meditative and mystic poems" expressing "the abiding sense in man of the indwelling God." Besides the intrinsic charm of the poems, the collection is interesting historically, as tracing the prog-ress of religious, as distinguished from doctrinal, feeling through the course of English poetry.— Inspiring quotations from American and foreign authors have been gathered into an anthology by Mr. H. Wellington Wood, under the title, "Golden Words Fitly Spoken" (Lippincott). The extracts are printed in large type, in two colors, and portraits of a dozen or more of the authors represented serve as illustrations. - "Songs of Sentiment" (Moffat, Yard & Co.) is an anthology of love lyrics of all ages, printed with decorated page borders and illustrated in color by Mr. Howard Chandler Christy. It is something of a shock to find Byron's "When We Two Parted" or Moore's "The Time I've Lost in Wooing" accompanied by pictures of typically uphief ras a rate hand maryly

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to-date Christy figures; but this will not disturb the artist's admirers, who are legion. — "Through the Year with Sousa" (Crowell) consists of excerpts from the operas, marches, novels, letters, magazine articles, songs, sayings, and rhymes of the versatile and entertaining Mr. John Philip Sousa, selected by himself from the note-books kept through thirty busy years. — Mrs. Grace Browne Strand has compiled two companion anthologies, "Love, Friendship, and Good Cheer" and "Faith, Hope, Love." They are published in gay bindings, with novel decorations, by Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co. -"The Little Book of Friendship" (Reilly & Britton), compiled and edited by Wallace and Frances Rice, is a thin volume of treasure-trove, tastefully bound in boards, with frontispiece in color. -The little "Good-Luck Book," in an appropriate red leather cover, is a compilation of good wishes and cheerful verses compiled by Mr. Ole Bang and published by Brandu's. - Miss Leolyn Louise Everett has collected, and the Watkins Co. of New York has published, the "Sleep Book," being selections from "The Poetry of Slumber." The volume is well printed on hand-made paper, in a limited edition.

We can do little more than mention a number of small gift-books, whose range of interest is wide enough to include all imaginable minor holiday "Cupid's Cyclopedia, compiled for Daniel Cupid " by Messrs. Oliver Herford and John Cecil Clay (Scribner), is a worthy successor to "Cupid's Almanac." It defines for the earnest student of Love-making all the terms of the game, and depicts many intereresting varieties of the genus Lovely Woman, besides furnishing a map and a full description of the "Ancient and Marvellous Countrie of Amoria." - Mrs. Janet Ayer Fairbank is the author and Miss Rebecca Kruttschnitt is the illustrator of "In Town, and Other Conversations" (McClurg), wherein are discussed, with more or less wit and wisdom, such matters as Debutantes, Bores, Playwriting, Woman and Superwoman, Success, and Civilization. - "The Zodiac Birthday Book" (Baker & Taylor), by Miss Beatrice Baxter Ruyl, enables its reader to discover the whole truth about his own and his friends' characters. It is attractively printed in two colors, with blank pages under each sign for the insertion of names .- In "The Teddysee " (Huebsch), Mr. Wallace Irwin recounts in classic metres plentifully besprinkled with upto-date slang the recent wanderings of the intrepid Colonel through Africa, Europe, and America. Appropriate illustrations by Mr. Blumenthal accompany the text. - Mr. H. C. Bunner's delightful operetta, "The Seven Old Ladies of Lavendar Town," with Mr. Oscar Weil's music, appears in a new illustrated edition bearing the imprint of Messrs. Harper & Brothers.—Full of tender pathos is the plaint of "Caesar," the late King Edward's dog, entitled "Where's Master?" Who held Caesar's paw as he wrote the book has not been divulged, but it is evidently somebody who understands both dogs and men.—"Mrs. Featherweight's

Musical Moments," written and illustrated by Mr. John Brady, appears in a new edition, in board covers, from the press of the Alice Harriman Co. In spite of her excess of musical temperament, Mrs. Featherweight's monologues are full of human and humorous interest. - "Siegfried," the third of the Ring cycle, has been translated into English verse by Dr. Oliver Huckel, as a companion volume to "The Rheingold" and "The Valkyrie." are four illustrations. (T. Y. Crowell & Co.) — In "The Great Moments in a Woman's Life," Miss Emily Calvin Blake sketches half a dozen episodes in the experience of a typical woman. They may be considered as a sort of sequel to her "Engaged Girl Sketches." (Forbes & Co.) - Now that "Darius Green and his Flying Machine" has "come true," it is only fitting that Mr. Trowbridge's poem should appear in a new edition. Mr. Wallace Goldsmith furnishes a generous number of illustrations. (Houghton Mifflin Co.) — Mr. Thomas G. Thrum has selected a few tales from his book of Hawaiian legends, and Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co. reprint them in a quaintly bound and decorated booklet entitled "Stories of the Menehunes." the same publishers comes "Quercus Alba" by the late Will Lillibridge, a tale of a veteran oak of the Ozark Mountains.—"The Master's Friendships" is a sermon by Dr. J. R. Miller, published with half a dozen illustrations in color and a pretty cover by Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. - An addition to Messrs. Duffield's "Rubric Series" reprints Oscar Wilde's "Ballad of Reading Gaol."—"Brass Tacks: Capsule Optimism," by Colonel William C. Hunter, contains much epigrammatic wisdom making for courage, hope, and success. The cover is plentifully besprinkled with "tacks." (Reilly & Britton Co.) — "My Advice Book" and "Making Faces" (McClurg) are pocket-sized opportunities for one's friends to develop latent humor. The small volumes, which are designed by Mr. Herschel Williams, are intended to be lent about among one's acquaintances, who are expected to fill them with good advice or good likenesses, as the case may be. — Three pretty booklets in paper covers are Dr. William A. Quayle's interpretation of "The Song of Songs" (Jennings & Graham); Mr. Walter Taylor Field's discussion of "What is Success" (Pilgrim Press); and "Merry Xmas!" a two-scene farce on the overdoing of Christmas giving, by Miss Elizabeth Kellogg (Cincinnati: U. P. James).

A TRANSLATION by Frances Douglas (Mrs. Charles F. Lummis), of Señor Vinente Blasco Ibanez's story of bull-fighting, "Sangre y Arena," is announced by Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co. for publication next Fall. Mrs. Lummis is an accomplished Spanish scholar, and her English rendering will have the approval of Señor Ibanez himself. The book will be illustrated in full color by Troy and Margaret West Kinney, who are spending the Winter in Spain partly to execute this important commission.

NOTES.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the central division of the Modern Language Association of America will be held at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 28, 29, and 30.

Dr. Sven Hedin's "Overland to India" will be issued by the Macmillan Co. within the next few weeks. is supplementary to his "Trans-Himalaya," and describes the overland journey to India by way of Teheran, made by the author before he started on his expedition

We are informed that an official biography of Thomas Love Peacock is being prepared. Any persons who have unpublished letters of Peacock in their possession are asked to communicate with his grand-daughter, Mrs. Charles Clarke, at 63, Kensington Mansions, Earl's Court, London, W.

"The Oxford Book of Ballads," chosen and edited by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, is to be issued immediately by the Oxford University Press. This volume, consisting of nearly 900 pages, includes 176 ballads, a form of art, which, as the editor points out, has been dead, or as good as dead, for two hundred years.

We learn from the London "Nation" that Matilde Serao is engaged upon a novel, of which she is said to have greater hopes than of any she has yet written. Its theme resembles that of Flaubert's "Madame Bovary," and her original intention was to call the book "Sin." The author has, however, changed her mind, and the book will appear under the title of "Intoxication, Slavery, and Death."

A Memoir of the late John La Farge, with a study of his work, by Mr. Royal Cortissoz, is announced for publication next Spring by the Houghton Mifflin Co. Mr. Cortissoz, who is critic of art and literature of the "New York Tribune," and the author of important books upon art matters, has an intimate knowledge of Mr. La Farge and his work, based on a friendship of some twenty years. The book, which was sanctioned by Mr. La Farge, will embody recollections communicated by him to the author in manuscript, together with numerous notes of conversations, anecdotes, etc., making it a personal portrait of unusual vividness and authen-It will be fully illustrated with reproductions of La Farge's work reproduced in photogravure.

The Titmarsh Club of London is engaged in arranging the celebration of the Centenary of the birth of Thackeray, falling on July 18, 1911. In connection with the celebration, a Thackeray Exhibition will be held as nearly as possible on that date at the Charterhouse, by the courteous permission of the Master of the Charterhouse. The Club has already received many assurances of valuable support from collectors abroad and at home, and will gladly welcome further offers of interesting contributions to the exhibition. These contributions may include personal relics as well as items of literary and artistic interest connected with the great The utmost care will be taken of every object entrusted to the Club during the whole course of the exhibition, which, it is proposed, shall not last longer than about a fortnight. Those who intend cooperating with the Club in its interesting plan should communicate with the secretary, Mr. Lewis Melville, Salcombe, Harpenden, Herts, England.

THE SEASON'S BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

The following titles were received too late for inclusion in the full descriptive list of Children's Books of the present season, published in our first Holiday issue of December 1.

Stories for Boys Especially.

A SENIOR QUARTER-BACK. By T. Truxton Hare. A lively tale of college life and football, in which the captain of the 'Varsity team disciplines his players with good results. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

A UNITED STATES MIDSHIPMAN IN THE PHILIPPINES.
By Lieut.-Com. Yates Stirling, Jr. Narrates the adventures of an Annapolis graduate who commands a gunboat in the Philippines. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

CAPTAIN OF THE SCHOOL TEAM. By John Prescott Earl.

The chief interest lies in a football game between two
rival schools. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

AN ANNAPOLIS FIRST CLASSMAN. By Lieut.-Com. E. L. Beach. In this new volume of a well-known series the hero wins many honors in his last year at Annapolis. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

Stories for Girls Especially.

BETTY WALES ON THE CAMPUS. By Margaret Warde.
The popular heroise is now secretary of the Students'
Aid Committee at Harding College, where she has some lively times with her old college chums and some new ones. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

A FRESHMAN CO-ED. By Alice Louise Lee. The story of a girl who cares more for her college and her sorority than for her own career. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

GLENLOCH GIRLS ABROAD. By Grace M. Remick. In this new volume of a popular series Ruth Shirley goes abroad and has many novel adventures. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

Peggy Owen, Patriot. By Lucy Foster Madison. The adventures of a Quaker maiden, the daughter of one of Washington's soldiers, during the Revolution. Illus-Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

LITTLE PRINCESS OF THE PINES. By Aileen Cleveland Higgins. Tells how Jean Kingsley went to the Minne-sota woods with her father, and her experiences there. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

THE ADMIRAL'S LITTLE HOUSEKEEPER. By Elizabeth Lincoln Gould. Little Nancy Beaumont keeps house for her grandfather, and has some good times into the bargain. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.

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THE YOUNG CONTINENTALS AT BUNKER HILL. By John T. McIntyre. Tells of how some young patriots discover a plot to raise the siege of Boston. Illustrated. Penn Pub'g Co. \$1.25.

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[The following list, containing 65 titles, includes books received by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

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storic Dress in America, 1800-1870. By Elisabeth McClellan; illustrated by Sophie B. Steel and Cecil W. Trout. 4to, 454 pages. George W. Jacobs & Co. #6. net.

Our Village. By Mary Russell Mitford; with intro-duction by Anne Thackersy Ritchie. Illustrated in color, etc., large 8vo, 256 pages. Macmillan Co.

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The Mediterranean and its Borderlands. By Joel Cook.
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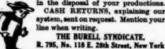
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